



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Economic Crisis Brings a Flurry of Worries

Residents and Workers Batten Down the Hatches

By Corrie M. Anders

Burke Ray, 75 years old and retired not even a year, has watched \$40,000 evaporate from his 401K account. To save money, bartender Heather Daniels cooks at home more often. Helen O'Rourke worries about what would happen if she were to lose her rent-controlled apartment.

Throughout Noe Valley, there is a growing sense of dread, as residents and workers await repercussions from the widening global economic crisis.

The stock market meltdown, in particular, has left residents feeling far less sanguine about their future. Bank failures, layoffs in high-tech and the financial industry, chinks in the housing market, along with rising consumer costs, also contribute to the unease.

People have responded by shuffling money from one bank to another, flooding investment advisers for guidance, and cutting back on discretionary spending. Sales signs are everywhere in "downtown" Noe, as storeowners try to woo reluctant shoppers. "A lot of mom and pop



Say goodbye to an icon. Streetlight Records on 24th Street, Noe Valley's main resource for music for more than 30 years, is slated to close at the end of January. Photo by Pamela Gerard

## Streetlight Set to Close Local Store

Fans Bemoan Loss of Music Center on 24th Street

By Joshua Brandt

When Jeff Moss, general manager of 24th Street's Streetlight Records, recalled the store's humble beginnings,

he couldn't resist a wistful smile.

"I was just a kid looking for some spending money. It was a placeholder job. We had one sign, about 50 square feet, and saggy cardboard boxes with used records—and this was before anyone understood the concept of used records.

"I was always kind of waiting for the other shoe to drop," Moss said.

Despite his trepidations, for over three decades—from rock to disco to hip-hop

## Merchants Hold Out Hope for Happy Holidays

Shops, Cafes Try to Keep Up Spirits During Season of Stress

By Lorraine Sanders

The white holiday lights are twinkling along 24th Street and Church Street, and Noe Valley merchants are readying themselves for the weeks ahead—ones they hope will be filled with the season's traditional pastimes of shopping, eating, and merrymaking.

"It sounds like a small thing to string up some lights, but all of a sudden, the first night they came on, this dark corridor of Church Street, it was lit up, it was cheerful, it was beautiful," says Lynn Ingham, owner of Lynn Antiques and a founding member of the Church Street Professionals organization.

Trouble is, a national economic crisis, added to a deepening recession, has stymied hopes for an end to the stagnant sales of last summer. Instead, many merchants are wondering just how bad things will get.

"People are just treading water. Nobody knows how to prepare for what's coming because we've never seen anything like it.... It's like you're in a river, and someone's just told you there's a huge

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## Last Reel for Noe Valley Video

Store Shuts Down After 10-Year Run

By Andrea Aranda

On Sept. 23, 1998, a shiny new video store opened in what was once the busiest block of 24th Street, between

Sanchez and Noe streets. Almost immediately, the brightly lit shop at 3936 24th Street became a popular meeting place for movie buffs and their families.

But on Oct. 7, 2008, two weeks after its 10th anniversary, Noe Valley Video pasted a handwritten sign on the window: "Going Out of Business." With that notice, owners Brian and Marlene Dunleavy sadly informed the neighborhood they

Marlene and Brian Dunleavy had 10 years of stardom, but economics realities have forced them to turn off the lights at Noe Valley Video. Photo by Beverly Thorp

were closing the store at the end of the month.

"It's the end of an era," said Brian with

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## Whole Foods to Take Over Bell in February

Gourmet Grocery Aims for Late 2009 Opening

By Corrie M. Anders

It's official. Whole Foods Market, which specializes in natural and organic food products, has announced that it will open a new store next year at the Bell Market location on 24th Street.

The news ends three years of rumors, speculation, and educated guesses over

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## Turkey & Soup

- ☐ Roasting pans
- ☐ Kitchen twine
- ☐ Turkey lacers
- ☐ Oven, meat & fridge thermometer
- ☐ Cheesecloth
- ☐ Stuffing bag
- ☐ Carving knife
- ☐ Electric carving knife
- ☐ Fat separator
- ☐ Baster
- ☐ Carving board
- ☐ Poultry shears & kitchen shears
- ☐ Turkey frills
- ☐ Basting brush
- ☐ Flavor injector
- ☐ Roasting rack
- ☐ Timers
- ☐ Stock pot
- ☐ Ladle
- ☐ Spice bag
- ☐ Immersion blender
- ☐ Stand blender
- ☐ Cutting board
- ☐ Wooden spoons

## Knives & Chopping

- ☐ Knives by Wüsthof, Messermeister, Shun, Henckels, Global, & more
- ☐ Knife sharpener (stone, manual, electric)
- ☐ Cutting boards (maple, bamboo, plastic, Epicurean)
- ☐ Cuisinart food processor (14 & 11 cup, mini)

## More Cookin'

- ☐ Asparagus steamer pots
- ☐ Le Creuset & Lodge Dutch Ovens
- ☐ All-Clad, Le Creuset, Swiss Diamond, Fissler, Chantal, Scanpan & Lodge skillets
- ☐ All-Clad pots & pans
- ☐ All-Clad, Lodge & Le Creuset Grill Pans
- ☐ Splatter screen
- ☐ Universal lid
- ☐ Colander
- ☐ Seafood tools
- ☐ Egg slicer
- ☐ Salad spinner
- ☐ Pepper & salt mills
- ☐ Potato masher & ricer
- ☐ Food mill
- ☐ Garlic press
- ☐ Mandoline
- ☐ Peelers (many types)
- ☐ Graters (Microplane!)
- ☐ Emile Henry & Le Creuset baking dishes
- ☐ Salts & peppers & spices
- ☐ Olive oils (Stonehouse!)
- ☐ Mortars and Pestles

## Wine, Cheese & Bar

- ☐ Wine glasses & decanters
- ☐ Stölzle
- ☐ Slate cheese trays
- ☐ Bamboo serving boards
- ☐ Wine openers (Rabbit!)
- ☐ Cocktail shaker
- ☐ French leaves
- ☐ Lace doilies
- ☐ Lemon squeezer

## Pies, Cakes & Desserts

- ☐ Pie dishes (Emile Henry!)
- ☐ Silpat, Roulpat
- ☐ Parchment paper & rounds
- ☐ Round, square & rectangular cake pans
- ☐ Bundt pans (NordicWare!)
- ☐ Silicone bakeware
- ☐ Cupcake pans & papers
- ☐ Decorating bags & tips
- ☐ Icing spatulas
- ☐ Food coloring
- ☐ Colored sugars & sprinkles
- ☐ Springform & loaf pans
- ☐ Flour sifter & pastry blender
- ☐ Rolling pins
- ☐ Tart dishes & ramekins
- ☐ Food scales
- ☐ Mixing bowls
- ☐ Spatulas & Whisks
- ☐ Cookie Sheets (Vollrath!)
- ☐ Vanilla Queen vanillas
- ☐ Baking chocolate
- ☐ Cocoa powder
- ☐ Cake stands
- ☐ Candy thermometers
- ☐ Timers
- ☐ Cooling racks
- ☐ Cardboard cake rounds
- ☐ Cookie cutters (hundreds!)
- ☐ Measuring cups & spoons
- ☐ Muscovado, Demerara sugar
- ☐ KitchenAid Mixers
- ☐ Hand Mixers
- ☐ Apple corers & slicers
- ☐ Pie servers
- ☐ Popover pans
- ☐ Gift packaging for baked goods & candies
- ☐ Chocolate molds

## Tea, Coffee & Espresso

- ☐ Cuisinart coffee maker
- ☐ Electric kettle
- ☐ Burr coffee grinder
- ☐ Mighty Leaf tea
- ☐ Sugar cubes
- ☐ Illy coffee
- ☐ French press
- ☐ Stovetop espresso maker
- ☐ Tea accessories
- ☐ Tea kettles by Simplex, Le Creuset, Oxo & others
- ☐ Teapots by Bee House, Bauer

## Breakfast

- ☐ Griddles
- ☐ Egg & pancake shapes
- ☐ Egg cups & poachers
- ☐ Toasters
- ☐ Citrus juicers
- ☐ Grapefruit spoons
- ☐ Omelet pans

## Linens

- ☐ Aprons by Rienzi, Mimi the Sardine & more (Kids' too!)
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Tablecloths
- ☐ Placemats
- ☐ Dish & hand towels
- ☐ Pot holders & mitts

## Sweets

- ☐ Poco Dolce Tiles
- ☐ Yummy chocolate bars

## Cookbooks

Between us and our neighbors at Cover To Cover, you're sure to find a cookbook you like.

## Cooking Classes

We've got a fun line-up of cooking classes for the season. Drop by the store or [cooksboulevard.com](http://cooksboulevard.com) for the details.

## Thanksgiving Knife Sharpening Event

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 22nd, from 10am-2pm get your knives sharpened as you wait!

## Holiday Food Drive

Help feed hungry people -- we're accepting food and monetary contributions for the San Francisco Food Bank.

## Weekly Knife Sharpening

Drop your knives off any Sunday by 6pm and they'll be sharp and ready to pick up on Tuesday at 11am.

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# LETTERS 42¢

## A Father Found

Editor:

Today, on Oct. 14, 2008, my father, Steve Hebert, would have turned 57 years young. It is on this day, that I want to celebrate his life and to give thanks to many individuals.

First, I want to thank *Voice* contributor Kathy Dalle-Molle, who returned my call and gave me my father's voice. I'd also like to thank *Voice* editor Sally Smith for

taking an interest in my story and writer Lorraine Sanders for finding some of the answers to my questions.

After the *Noe Valley Voice* printed my story ["Steve Hebert: A Father Lost and Found," July-August 2008], I heard from many individuals who either knew my father briefly or walked in my shoes, searching for a parent. I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to one local in particular: Coral Reiff.

Coral sent me the printed article and shared with me precious memories and thoughts of my father. I have high regard for Coral because she not only spared her change for my homeless father but took the time to speak with him (and others like him). She wrote, "Your dad...was a soft-spoken, kind, and intelligent middle-aged man.... He liked to wear flannel shirts and overalls. He was bearded and wore glasses." To others this may seem like trivial information, but to me it was like finding another piece of the puzzle in my yearning to know "Who was my father?"

I'd also like to thank the director of the Pacific Bay Inn, Kevin Sharps, for sending me my father's handwritten signature on an old driver's license from the state of Oregon, and Pacific Bay Inn property manager Georgetta Lovett, for sharing with me that my father had a favorite red baseball cap and a habit of sharing candy with the PBI staff. For a man who had so little, he still found a way to give.

Through my search, I was also able to find a couple of my father's childhood friends: Jeff and Jim. They painted the picture of my father as a young man who had an eye for beautiful women and a spirit for adventure: sledding, ice skating, camping, shooting, fishing and hiking. I don't believe in coincidences and so it was meant to be that I would also connect with one of Steve's cousins, Valerie. Thank you, Valerie, for sending me photographs of the Hebert family and revealing where my son inherited his ears. I'd also like to thank my Uncle Skeeter, my father's half-brother, for his unwavering support in my search and for giving me the roots of my family tree.

Lastly, I would like to thank my father's sister, Donna, for building brick walls. Without her, I probably would not have found the determination to keep searching. I have always known my father had other children other than me and my brother, Jake. Upon learning of Steve's

death, I found myself more determined than ever to find them. I didn't know their names or even how many there were, but that all changed on Aug. 21.

Upon receiving marriage certificates from the state of New Hampshire and making many phone calls, I learned the names and locations of my siblings: Jennifer, Eric, and Shannon. Out of respect for them, their mothers, and their families, I will not say anything else other than this quote from Ruth E. Renkel: "Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance."

My life is filled with abundance, and my father unknowingly gave me the best of himself: kindness, intelligence, optimism, humor, and compassion. My search is complete. Happy birthday, Dad! Love,  
Tamara Cocchiarella  
Plymouth, N.H.

## Places in the Heart

Editor:

Small independent business took another hit recently, one closer to home than most, when the folks at Noe Valley Video announced they were closing their doors after 10 years in business. [See story, page 1.]

Popular owners Brian and Marlene Dunleavy have been struggling of late, not only with tough competition from the likes of Netflix, plus a sagging economy, but with a growing lack of customer support despite their constant and inventive attempts to attract new business. They not only have continued to offer a wide selection of DVDs, but have consistently offered creative and money-saving promotions for their clientele, a professional staff to assist patrons, and a friendly and engaging store environment.

I will miss all of these features, but I'll especially miss the nearly daily conversations I've had with Brian and Marlene—

two of the nicest and hardest-working people you could hope to meet—and with many other staff members over the years.

While the familiar mantra of "Support the community and its merchants" is often heard, in this case it seems to be more talkin' the talk than walkin' the walk.

Thank you, Brian and Marlene, for your 10 years in Noe Valley.

Bruce Dettman  
30th Street

## Street Etiquette

Editor:

On Wednesday, Oct. 15, the students, teachers, parents, and I walked from St. Philip School on Elizabeth Street down 24th Street to Church Street and back. This was our fourth annual Walk for Fitness to promote the importance of good nutrition, exercise, and safety awareness.

We would like to extend our thanks, again, to anyone who happened to be walking by our "large" group and may have had to stop to let us pass. Also, we hope we did not inconvenience the traffic as we were crossing the streets.

Mrs. Remy Everett, Principal  
St. Philip School  
665 Elizabeth Street



## LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. E-mail [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com) or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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1604 Castro Street

### Our Recent Noe Valley Sales

3888 26th Street  
4385 25th Street  
3785 21st Street  
4831 17th Street  
2184 15th Street  
2186 15th Street  
2186A 15th Street  
28 Clipper Street

823 Castro Street  
912 Castro Street  
1617 Church Street  
1870 Church Street  
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## 24th & Church St. Merchants Stay in Good Cheer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

waterfall in front of you," says Gwen Sanderson, owner of Video Wave and co-president of the Noe Valley Merchants Association, which helped put up lights in all corners of the neighborhood.

The suspense is enough to rattle the nerves of even longtime business owners.

"It's definitely something I worry about, having been through the whole 2000 to 2002 debacle, where we noticed a serious loss of business and we had to do some pretty aggressive marketing to build it back," says Brad Levy, whose 24th Street restaurant Firefly celebrates its 15th anniversary on Nov. 3. At its lowest point, he estimates the restaurant saw sales volume drop between 40 and 50 percent during those years.

Still, Levy says, it's too soon to tell whether the occasionally slow night at Firefly is the result of the national economic downturn or just part of the late-September to mid-October lull many business owners experience.

"It's hard to even say if there's been any effect yet. Historically, past Labor Day, there's a little slump as we gear up for the holidays," he says.

### Firefly Fixed the Prix

What Levy is sure about is that costs are on the rise for local restaurants and have been for several years.

"Our bottom line is evaporating," he says, matter-of-factly.

Along with the escalating costs of food, especially premium items like the sustainably-farmed fish Firefly serves, the last few years have saddled small business owners with vendor-imposed fuel surcharges, increased employee healthcare costs, and higher minimum-wage requirements.

The solution? Raising prices, of course. Most recently, Levy says he raised prices 4 percent across the board to match the increase in health-insurance costs since the city's healthcare ordinance passed two years ago.

A silver lining for the restaurant's customers? Levy decided not to raise the price of Firefly's popular weeknight prix fixe menu, which offers an appetizer, entree, and dessert for \$35 a person.

"If the situation were better financially, we would probably have raised it, but we've been holding that down. Our other

prices have increased, which makes it an even better deal. A lot of people appreciate that for weekday dining, which is the first thing that drops off when people are thinking about cutting costs," he says.

Luckily for Firefly's employees, Levy says he doesn't anticipate having to cut staff anytime soon.

### Layoffs Off the Table

Nor does Steven Baker, owner of Chloe's on Church Street, another longtime favorite among local residents.

"I would rather sell the business than lay off staff. They are like family. The staff tells me what to do, all the different things it takes to help run the business," says Baker, who opened the cafe with wife Melania Kang in 1987. Back then, a breakfast with two eggs, toast, and fresh fruit went for just \$3.95, compared to today's \$6.15.

These days, the main challenge is the rise in the cost of ingredients.

"Where we feel it is when our vendors say the price is going up.... Over the course of last year, every vendor has added a gas charge," he says.

The increase in key products like flour prompted Baker to raise Chloe's prices by 25 cents last spring.

"We held on for as long as we could," Baker says.

### Loyalty Helps

While restaurants are feeling the pinch from increased employee and product costs, the situation among retail businesses in the neighborhood is more of a mixed bag (pun intended). At least two longtime local businesses, Streetlight Records and Noe Valley Video on 24th Street, have opted to close their doors. (See stories, page 1.)

For others, the effects of the economic downturn range from mild to major.

"We haven't noticed a big drop in anything. We attribute that to the strong support of the community. They seem to have a real consciousness of making the effort to buy locally," says Marcy Israel, who opened Wink SF with co-owner Teresa Hagiya in 2005.

Although their 24th Street store hasn't suffered, Israel says the owners have adjusted rates at their photography business, I Do Photos.

"We have really tried to discount our pricing to help people in this climate, to make it more reasonable for people," says Israel.

### Walking and Nesting

Whether it's portraits for the family or regular dog walks, services seem to be

taking a bigger hit in the neighborhood.

Slow business prompted Noe Valley Pet Company owners Paula Harris and Celia Sack to sell their Church Street pet store's dog-walking service to independent provider Top Dog in September.

"When people are feeling the crunch of the economy and feeling strapped for economic reasons, the first thing they cut out really is services—the personal trainer, the dog walker, the massage. We were feeling a little bit of that. That business was not growing," Harris explains.

In the store, however, sales have been strong despite rising costs in pet food.

"We haven't felt much of a slowdown. Actually, it's been a little more brisk. I think people are walking around the neighborhood more," says Harris, who partially attributes the phenomenon to residents' increased interest in pursuing alternate means of transportation, like walking and biking, instead of driving.

Lynn Ingham agrees. "A lot of people are nesting again. Like after 9-11, a lot of people sort of nested for a while and really thought about what's important, and shopping locally is one of those things that's really important," she says.

### Shops Try to Keep Smiling

Other small retailers are feeling increased pressure.

"It's actually been really hard the last two months. The first few months, I was doing so well, so I think it has to do with the economy," says Camille Seiberling, who opened Mabuhay children's boutique on Church Street last spring.

During her first four months in business, Seiberling says, sales exceeded her expectations. Since then, they've fallen off, so much so that she reports barely breaking even in September and recently borrowed money from a family member.

"I'm really trying to be positive. Being a consumer, I know for myself right now

we're just worried whether we have enough money for the holidays," she says.

Like Seiberling, Maric Biscarra, who co-owns the clothing shop ISSO (formerly Nisa) nearby on 24th Street, has felt consumers tightening their purse strings. But she is trying to remain optimistic.

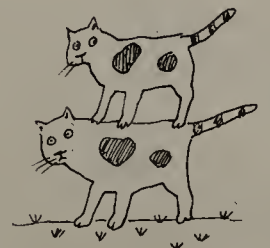
"I think that everybody feels it. We feel a difference, especially within the past couple of months, but we are able to keep our doors open and our staff all on board," she says, adding, "but all you can do is do your best and stay true to who you are as a company and think of people in our own back yard."

### Santa on Way to Noel Stroll

A bright spot for many neighborhood merchants in the dreary retail picture will be the annual Noel Stroll on 24th Street, scheduled for Dec. 13, 5 to 9 p.m. That evening, businesses will celebrate the season by hosting sales and special activities with holiday themes.

While carolers and local musicians entertain passersby outside the shops, children will be able to have pictures taken with Santa Claus at Zephyr Real Estate and listen to kid-friendly readings at neighborhood bookstores.

There will be wine and cheese tastings, traditional holiday foods, and plenty of opportunities to shop, says Sanderson. ■



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# Noe Valleyans Are Worried Like Everyone Else

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

places are barely making it," says Tim Vu, the office manager at Sherri King Tax Services, which handles financial matters for many local residents and businesses. "Everybody is very worried about how long this downturn is going to last."

## Empty Pockets on 24th Street

A tour through Noe Valley on a mid-October afternoon that was shirtsleeve-warm revealed that constant talk about recession and depression has left many residents and businesses on edge.

No one, it seems, has escaped the impact of the country's economic retrenchment. That includes panhandler Alfreda Tillman, who pursued her trade from a makeshift chair just outside Bell Market.

"I've got regular people" who help out, she says. "One of my friends just gave me \$20."

Increasingly, however, the pedestrians who stop by her sidewalk office are like Burke Ray, a regular donor who used to give Tillman more than the dollar he slipped into her hand this day.

"I've lost a lot in the stock market," admits Ray, who retired in February from a front-office job for a downtown architectural firm.

Never a "big spender," the Fair Oaks Street resident says he now is "being much more careful about what I buy." He and his partner eat at home most nights. Ray says, but occasionally spring for a \$9 hamburger at Toast Eatery.

"It's good and it's inexpensive, and it's better than going to one of the high-end, fancy restaurants."

## Counting on Bar Patrons

Heather Daniels, a popular bartender for 11 years at Noe's Bar who works a second job at a Burlingame hair salon, doesn't bother to routinely check her shrunken retirement account.

"No, I don't look at it," confesses Daniels. "I'm only 42 and it's got a chance to come back. But anybody who is getting ready to retire right now, I feel sorry for them."

Daniels got rid of one big worry of her own in July when she refinanced an expensive subprime mortgage loan on her home for a cheaper fixed-rate loan. "Thank God," she says, "because I would have been a statistic like everyone else."

Like many people concerned about the economy, Daniels acknowledges that "I'm cooking at home more, rather than eating out." It has been the hair salon in-

come that has declined more than the tips from her regulars at the 24th and Church Street watering hole.

"Lots of the clientele [at Noe's] are blue-collar jobs, regulars, people who are still employed, still doing [home] remodeling jobs," says Daniels. "They don't want to stay home and watch the news because that's depressing. So they come out and have a couple of beers and socialize."

## Tips, Haircuts Trimmed

Down at the end of Church Street, a hairstylist at Great Hair Cuts took only a second to address the issue of whether the economy worried her. "Of course it does," said Bella, who preferred not to give a last name.

All five chairs in the salon were empty on a weekday afternoon, and Bella described the shop's traffic as good but "not great." Though no business is exactly recession-proof, Bella says the tough times may not hurt hair salons as much as other lines of work.

"People still need their hair cut," she says. "If they don't come today, they'll come tomorrow."

A few doors away at a storefront laundromat, Ismael Robles, 26, took clothes from a hot dryer and neatly folded them. Robles works in an upscale Hayes Valley restaurant, but laments that "people are not tipping us as well as they used to."

Instead of the customary 15 to 20 percent, customers are leaving tips of about 10 percent, Robles says. With less trickling down to his tip jar, he says, "I'm trying not to go out as much."

## Retirement Roulette

For more than 20 years, 24th Street CPA Lawrence Ratner has been preparing taxes for local residents and handling bookkeeping and accounting for local businesses. Ratner says most of the complaints he hears these days revolve around clients' retirement accounts.

"People are just very concerned," Ratner says. "All mutual funds are declining right now. So the money they were counting on for retirement is just not there—at least not now."

Vu, of Sherri King, notes that Noe Valley has "a lot of people who are getting ready to retire," and many are asking what they should do to protect their Wall Street investments. Vu says he advises them that "if you don't need the money right away, just leave it, because it will eventually rebound."

## Bank Customers Dizzy

Many 24th Street bank depositors, particularly those with accounts at Washington Mutual Bank—which was seized by federal authorities and transferred to J.P. Morgan Chase in September—are biting their nails, too.

Worried about the safety of their CDs and other deposits, some customers have been shifting money back and forth between banks, including the local branches of Sterling Bank and Trust, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo Bank.

"I sense a nervousness...some uncertainty out there," says Sterling Bank president Steve Adams, "but it's helping me. We have a lot of new customers coming in."

A "big increase in traffic" is also evident at the local Wells Fargo branch, says area manager Reza Razzaghipour.

Adams and Razzaghipour say employees are trying to allay consumer fears. As part of last month's \$700 billion bailout of financial institutions, they note, the federal government now guarantees CDs and other deposits to a maximum of \$250,000—up from \$100,000.

In addition, Wells Fargo's Razzaghipour says the bank's "financial consultants are every day calling customers, checking and making sure all their questions are being answered."

## Depression Memories

Bank failures were omnipresent during Helen O'Rourke's Depression-era childhood. Born in 1935, she says the tough times her family endured seven decades ago still resonate.

"I remember we had rations. People had to sacrifice. Go shopping? You never did that when we were in the other depression. No one had anything," she says. Her father was a dentist who "had just gotten out of school, and he'd sit there and wait for someone to come."

The Hoffman Avenue resident says those experiences have made her extra-cautious today. "I'm trying to use cash instead of charging. I don't eat out. I don't drive like I did. In a lot of ways I'm cutting back. And I'm paying down my

debts," says O'Rourke.

O'Rourke is a former nurse who supplements her state retirement pension with a two-day-a-week job at an East Bay firm that aids the homeless.

"I don't have investments," says O'Rourke, who is banking her financial future on the safety of her pension, and on not losing the rent-controlled apartment she has lived in for 16 years.

"If something happens to that, I'm really going to be in deep doo-doo," she says.

Nor could she afford to stay in Noe Valley if she had to leave her apartment. "I couldn't live here. I'd have to go someplace else."

## Hard Times for Part-Time

John Klein is another senior who is watching the turmoil in financial markets. Klein drives a cab, but spends a lot of time at Café XO at 30th and Church streets.

The financial mess "hasn't exactly affected me yet," says Klein, 71, who lives on 29th Street. "I do have a mortgage that costs a lot more than what I can afford, [but] I'll probably be okay."

If the nation's economy tanks further, however, Klein says he might be forced to drive his taxi four nights a week.

"I can stand driving a cab for two nights of 10-hour shifts, but the idea of doing four 10-hour shifts would just kill me," he says. "The quality of my life would be miserable." ■



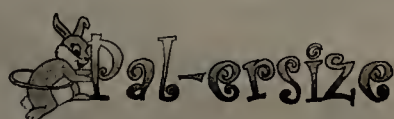
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## Swan Song for Streetlight Records

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to hyphy—Streetlight thrived as a magnet for music collectors. People would come from miles around to sift through the store's dusty bins, crammed with the hottest new—and, hippest old—albums, tapes, and CDs.

But that other shoe may be dropping now. After 33 years in Noe Valley, Streetlight owner Robert Fallon gave word to employees last month that he will close the store at 3979 24th Street on Jan. 31, at the end of the holiday season.

"It's really hard to swallow," said Moss, who has been with the shop for all but two of those years. "On an emotional level it's very difficult. I've gone through all the stages, I guess you could say. There was anger, denial, bargaining, and finally, acceptance."

Still, he understands the factors that went into Fallon's decision to give up the store: the sour economy, competition from other retailers and the Internet, and an iPod culture that promotes one-hit wonders instead of whole albums.

"The music industry doesn't promote full-length artistic works, like [Pink Floyd's] *Dark Side of the Moon* anymore," said Moss. "The big-box stores offer the name groups way below cost, and people just download one song per album. It's tough for a small, local store to survive under those conditions. The unfortunate reality is that the day of the neighborhood record store has come and gone."

### Losing Steadily

Fallon, who launched Streetlight in 1976, thought long and hard before deciding to close the Noe Valley location, instead of his other San Francisco location on Market Street. (Streetlight also has stores in San Jose and Santa Cruz. Many of the 24th Street employees will be switching over to the Market Street store in some capacity.)

In the end, it was a decision based on hard facts. "I happen to love Noe Valley, and I was a member of this community for over 20 years before I moved to Big Sur. This area has one of the world's best promenades, and I have many fond memories of the store and neighborhood.

"But emotions don't pay the bills," Fallon said, "and we've been losing money steadily since 2001."

The Market Street store had better foot traffic and visibility, he said, so the Noe Valley store was the logical choice.

### 'Like a Bad Dream'

The reaction from longtime customers was swift and visceral.

"Wow, I'm shocked and stunned," said Dennis White. "Shocked and stunned," repeated White, an employee of nearby Noe Valley Music and a Streetlight customer for 20 years.

"The street is not going to be the same. That's just terrible. I talk to those guys at the shop all the time. They're so passion-



Streetlight Records on 24th Street, and its dusty bins filled with lovingly worn records, will be the stuff of legends when the shop closes in February.

Photo by Sally Smith

ate and knowledgeable. I thought that some of those guys should run for Mayor of 24th Street.... They would've won in a landslide."

Over at Phoenix Books and Records, store manager James Koehneke was equally dismayed.

"I'm devastated. It's like a bad dream. We consider them old friends because we kind of grew up together on the block. But I guess stores like this may just be the products of another era, where the economic conditions were more merciful and artists and musicians who supported the independent stores could live in the neighborhood.

"I'm really sorry. It's really sad," Koehneke said. "People need to think about what kind of city they want to live in when we lose stores like Streetlight."

### Calls for Wake-Up Calls

Neighborhood resident Chuck Hubbell agreed, saying the store's demise should be a wake-up call for Noe Valley.

"People should be pissed about this," said Hubbell, who has made almost daily stops at Streetlight Records for 18 years. "The times are changing, and they aren't changing for the better. This is a real village here, and healthy villages are comprised of healthy small businesses. Without it, neighborhoods are stale and irrelevant. Period."

Coral Reiff, a Noe Valley resident since

but I choose not to because of Streetlight. This is just a microcosm of what's going on in the world, and people have to wake up before more precious institutions are lost."

### Don't Discount Passion for Music

Another fan, Kenn Durrence, who drove up from San Jose on a recent weekend just to shop at Streetlight, thinks the store is making a big mistake.

"First of all, sales of vinyl have doubled every year since 2000, and the sale of record players was up 80 percent last year. It used to be that vinyl just appealed to middle-aged guys like me in big Hawaiian T-shirts, but now a lot of kids aged 18 to 22 are getting into it.

"I mean look at these two beauties that just came out," said Durrence, holding up copies of the Pixies' *Bossanova* and *Trompe le Monde*.

"This is 180-gram vinyl, which is really substantial. You can feel the magic when you hold it. You can frame it. This is really art. And at places like this store, you can always find hidden treasures like rare deejay-stamped promotional albums that aren't available in other places. I'll tell you one thing—never discount the passion people have for their music."

That's exactly the sentiment that buffers store manager Sunlight Weismehl during a time of "disbelief."

"I've worked at this store for 20 years. I got hired when I brought an old Jethro Tull album back because the liner wasn't in mint condition."

Weismehl laughed at the memory, adding that any "flute-rock devotee" had to be considered an excellent candidate to work behind the counter.

"I have a memory of every nook and cranny in this place. I know where the floors creak or the paint on the walls is chipping. This store is all I've thought about for two decades. I have to admit that my optimism is shrinking, but I still have that little ray of hope that the store will remain open.

"I just can't fully give that hope up." ■

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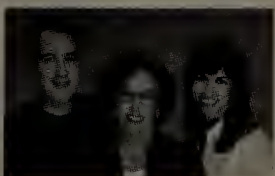


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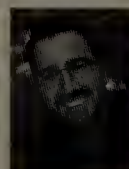


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## Sad Ending for Noe Valley Video

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a sigh. He said the store had been overwhelmed by a *Perfect Storm*: a sinking economy, rising overhead costs, and stiff competition from the Internet, cable TV, and companies like Netflix.

Brian also named another culprit, the film industry itself.

"Hollywood doesn't support small rental stores," he said. He explained that the movie studios offer price breaks to chain stores like Netflix, Blockbuster, and Walmart, though not to the small neighborhood stores. That translates to an unfair advantage, he said.

Noe Valley Video had been experienc-

ing a gradual decline in sales since June, Brian said. But this fall, he and his wife remained hopeful the business could survive. However, when the numbers came in for the month of September, they realized it was the last straw and made the tough decision to close the store.

### The Long Goodbye

A week before Halloween, the owners were selling off the last of their inventory and saying goodbye to the people they'd come to know through a decade of sharing film favorites.

"Saying goodbye is the hard part," said Brian. "We've seen children grow, become teenagers, and get married. We're going to miss the great relationships and the joy and laughter."

For Marlene as well, it's been a difficult transition. "It's been emotionally

devastating. I feel like I'm grieving a death.

The Dunleavys aren't the only ones grieving the loss. Since the store announced the closure, loyal customers have been coming in daily to offer best wishes and bid adieu.

Kay Noyes has been a customer since the store first opened under its original name, 21st Century Video.

"Noe Valley Video was the first stop on my walk down 24th Street," said Noyes. "Marlene was my entertainment—we had lots of laughs. I feel very sad and disappointed. I'll miss them terribly."

Noyes said she doesn't intend to join Netflix, but she is not sure where she will go.

Brian's recommendation is to "shop local! There's Video Wave [on Castro Street] and Superstar [at Castro and 18th].

Stay away from Netflix and Blockbuster," he said. "They offer no support for the community. They aren't supporting the Harvest Festival. People need to take time to support local businesses."

What lies around the bend for Brian and Marlene Dunleavy? For now, the couple, longtime Noe Valley residents, are looking forward to enjoying Thanksgiving and some relaxation. They aren't sure what their next venture will be, though they say they have "a few irons in the fire. I doubt we'll open another store like this. We're innovative, bright...we'll figure something out. We'll be okay."

As for their employees, the Dunleavys say they regret having to let the staff go. "They were the best group of employees we had," said Marlene. "It sickens us that we can no longer employ these good, knowledgeable, and friendly kids." ■

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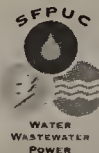
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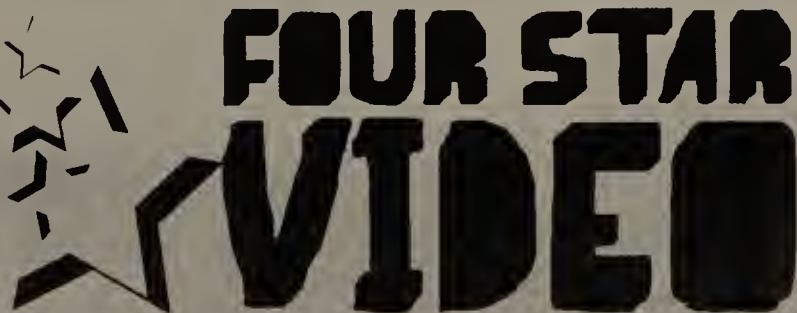
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## Whole Foods to Replace Bell in Feb.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what might replace Bell Market, a neighborhood institution set to go out of business when its lease expires in February.

Whole Foods says it plans to shutter Bell when it takes over the site, so that it can do extensive renovations. The store, at 3950 24th Street between Noe and Sanchez streets, would be closed for remodeling for at least six months, perhaps longer.

Whole Foods spokeswoman Vanessa Cornish said in October that the supermarket retailer was drafting construction documents to get the renovations rolling.

She said Whole Foods also was "meeting with city officials to discuss the best way to approach the development process, so that we can secure building permits and move forward with the remodel process in a timely manner...."

"We hope to start construction once building permits are approved," she said. "We anticipate opening in late 2009, assuming the development process is straightforward."

The nation's sour economy, which has crimped the construction and expansion plans of many developers and retailers, has not affected Whole Foods' plans for Noe Valley, according to Cornish.

"No, we're moving forward," she said.

The Noe Valley addition would be the chain's fifth store in San Francisco. Right now the company operates groceries in Pacific Heights, on Potrero Hill, and in the South of Market area. (City officials currently are reviewing Whole Foods' plans to build a new store on Stanyan Street in the Haight, on the site of a former Cala grocery there.)

Whole Foods, an Austin, Tex.-based retailer, has honed a reputation as an upscale grocery offering gourmet, if expensive products. Some shoppers refer to the store kiddingly as "Whole Paycheck."

Cornish said executives in the firm's Northern California regional headquarters are working on conceptual plans for the 13,000-square-foot Bell site.

However, "it's too soon to tell what the final design will be," said Cornish. "We

have a 'first pass' sketch at this point."

The store will probably have a butcher to cut and trim meats, a fishmonger, a bakery, a team of chefs preparing takeout meals, and an emphasis on straight-from-the-farm produce, she said.

"The main thing is we try and bring in as much local products as possible."

At some of its 21 locations in the Bay Area, Whole Foods has set up mini farmers' markets in parking lots. That's not likely to happen at the 24th Street site—both because of the facility's small parking lot and because Whole Foods does not intend to compete with the Noe Valley Farmers' Market, Cornish said. The weekly Saturday-morning event, where vendors sell organic fruits and vegetables, has been a fixture on 24th near Vicksburg since the Real Food Company closed its doors five years ago.

Cornish said Whole Foods does, however, envision using "local foragers," who will "go out to local fields and bring their products into the store." The store may also "bring in local farmers to give samples of their products."

"While conventional supermarkets take a 'cookie-cutter' approach to their stores, this Whole Foods Market store will be customized with products and services most in demand by the Noe Valley community," Cornish said.

When Whole Foods shuts Bell down, the closest supermarkets to Noe Valley will be Delano's (formerly Cala) in the Castro District, Mollie Stone's Tower Market on Portola, and two Safeway stores, one on Diamond Heights Boulevard and the other on Mission near 29th Street. Bi-Rite Market on 18th and Good Life Grocery on Cortland provide options in the mid-size range.

For less extensive shopping, residents can buy goods at a variety of corner stores—such as Church Street Produce, Shufat's, or Angel's Deli—or at the weekly Farmers' Market.

Bell Market has been serving local shoppers ever since Dominick Bell and two brothers founded the grocery after World War II and expanded into Noe Valley in 1968.

The store has changed hands several times. Ralphs, a Southern California chain owned by food giant Kroger Co., currently runs the 24th Street operation. ■

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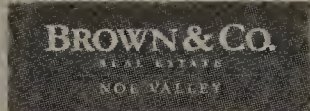
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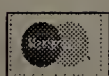
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## Latest Honor for Judo Master Keiko Fukuda

By Heather World

She's 95 years old and less than five feet tall. Yet Keiko Fukuda—the highest-ranking female judo practitioner in the world—has no intention of retiring from teaching judo in her Noe Valley studio.

"I'm too busy to think about that," she says. "When I have time, I'll let you know."

On Nov. 6, Fukuda will receive an Eldership Award from the San Francisco-based Pacific Institute, a non-profit research and education organization focused on aging issues.

The award is one of many honors Fukuda has received over her lifetime. In 2001, the U.S. Judo Federation awarded her a ninth *dan* red belt, one of only three in the world. She also holds a ninth-degree black belt, given two years ago by the Kodokan Judo Institute in Japan.

One of the first women to learn judo, Fukuda has taken this less lethal form of her family's samurai training and taught women around the world to defend themselves with speed and technique rather than force.

Her journey started in pre-modern Japan. Her grandfather, the country's last famous samurai, taught the martial art of jujitsu to luminaries such as Ulysses S. Grant. Though as a young girl she learned the traditional wifely arts of flower-arranging and tea ceremony, Fukuda jumped at the chance to train with her grandfather's student, Jigoro Kano, who was taking jujitsu to a higher level and calling it judo. The new form allowed one to defeat an opponent through a combination of rolls, throws, and chokeholds.

Kano trained women because he knew they would understand the art and science of judo, says Fukuda's housemate and gym partner, Dr. Shelley Fernandez.

"He used to say, 'If you want to learn judo, watch the women study,'" she says.

Taking strength from the spirit of her grandfather and teacher, Fukuda practiced hard and became a sought-after teacher in her own right. Her students gathered in the basement room of Tokyo's Kodokan, the center of judo. As a judo teacher, she adhered to the unspoken rule of not marrying. Instead, she spread judo to hundreds of women around the world.

"She was the first true feminist in Japan," says Fernandez, herself a former president of the San Francisco chapter of the National Organization for Women.



Keiko Fukuda, considered the top woman judo practitioner in the world, will be honored this month by the Pacific Institute. Fukuda, 95, still teaches at the dojo she founded 35 years ago, the Soko Joshi Judo Club on Castro Street. Photo courtesy Christine Alicino, from Wise Talk Wild Women

After World War II, Fukuda taught American women too, and she was invited to come to the United States in 1953. Though she traveled back to Japan during that time, she eventually settled in Noe Valley, where Fernandez offered her space in her home.

In the years that followed, Fukuda broke new ground in judo practice. She taught judo to nurses after a string of rapes at UCSF. She held classes for Japanese women older than 75, who felt vulnerable to physical abuse. She taught male judo instructors, so they could learn how to instruct their female students. She traveled to countries around the world, from Norway to Israel, demonstrating her special skills. In 1973, she published the bible on women's judo, *Born for the Mat: A Kodokan Textbook*.

Fukuda retired from teaching judo at Mills College and San Francisco City College some 30 years ago. But she con-

tinues to enthrall students at the Soko Joshi Judo Club (Women's Judo Club), the gym she founded at the corner of Castro and 26th streets in 1973. To send a note of congratulations, you may write to the club at 1622 Castro Street, San Francisco, 94114.

Tickets for the Pacific Institute's 2008 Eldership Awards are \$150 and are available online and at the door on Thursday, Nov. 6. The celebration, which also honors John Levy, author of *Inherited Wealth: Opportunities and Dilemmas*, begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Marines Memorial Club, 609 Sutter Street. For information, visit the website [www.pacificinstitute.org](http://www.pacificinstitute.org) or call 415-861-3455. ■



## Noe Library Wins State Preservation Award

By Heather World and Corrie M. Anders

The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, which reopened in March after a two-year \$5.7 million renovation and seismic retrofit, has won a major honor for the historic preservation of its 1916 Beaux Arts building.

The California State Parks' Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) will present its Governor's Historic Preservation Award for Excellence to library representatives at a Nov. 21 ceremony in Sacramento. The Noe Valley Library is one of 11 projects to be lauded statewide.

"I'm quite happy about it," said branch manager Alice McCloud, who learned the good news last month in an e-mail from state officials. She also applauded "the Noe Valley community [which] worked hard to put forth the nomination" for the award.

San Francisco architect Alice Carey, who designed the renovations of the two-story building, said she was delighted that her firm's work had been recognized.

"It's a very charming library," Carey said. "It was a pleasure to preserve what was there."

The original library was one of many funded by Andrew Carnegie, a 19th-century steel magnate. Carey noted that in the early years of the 20th century, "they wanted to make sure that one librarian could oversee the whole library, which is why you have one big room [at 451 Jersey Street]." In her restoration, Carey preserved the main space by putting new elements, such as an elevator, on the back of the building.

Other renovations included new lighting, accessible bathrooms, hundreds of new books, a community room, and restored woodwork and fixtures.

In addition to the architectural firm Carey & Co., the state praised the efforts of Friends of the San Francisco Public Library (specifically the Noe Valley Library Campaign), which raised more than \$200,000 in private funds to supplement public funds; the residents group Friends of Noe Valley; and various agencies of the City and County of San Francisco.

"The wonderfully restored Noe Valley Library looks today almost exactly as it did in 1916," said Stephen Mikesell, a deputy state historic preservation officer. ■



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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## Slip-Sliding Away

By Corrie M. Anders

The pedestal that Noe Valley real estate has been sitting on for the past several years was wobbling again in September. Sales data showed that prices on neighborhood homes fell for the second month in a row.

According to numbers provided to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate, buyers closed escrow on eight single-family homes during September. However, as the nation's worst financial crisis since the Great Depression loomed on the horizon, only one of those Noe Valley homes sold for over \$1.5 million and two properties came in under \$1 million.

It was the first time since December and only the second time since January 2007—nearly two years—that not a single home in the neighborhood topped the \$2 million mark.

When all was said and done, buyers in

September paid an average \$1,140,000 to live in Noe Valley, down from \$1,396,000 in August (and \$1,366,000 in September a year ago). The average for the dozen

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
Sept. 2008	8	\$870,000	\$1,525,000	\$1,140,313	64	101%
Aug. 2008	15	\$1,000,000	\$2,195,000	\$1,396,200	52	102%
Sept. 2007	6	\$875,000	\$2,515,000	\$1,365,500	29	109%
<b>Condominiums</b>						
Sept. 2008	6	\$690,000	\$1,150,000	\$907,500	55	100%
Aug. 2008	8	\$399,000	\$2,000,000	\$780,375	57	96%
Sept. 2007	7	\$659,000	\$1,625,000	\$948,857	20	109%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
Sept. 2008	2	\$1,475,000	\$1,820,000	\$1,647,500	79	102%
Aug. 2008	3	\$1,299,000	\$2,100,000	\$1,608,000	74	101%
Sept. 2007	3	\$1,250,000	\$1,875,000	\$1,473,333	60	98%
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
Sept. 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—
Aug. 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—
Sept. 2007	0	—	—	—	—	—

\* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is defined in this survey as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyr-re.com](http://www.zephyr-re.com)) for supplying the sales data. NVV 11/08

"There may have been 30 to 50 percent of transactions where a buyer may not have had their own inspection" and relied on a seller's inspection report, said Kostick. "Nowadays, I think people feel they have an opportunity to make their own inspections, which is what they should be doing anyway."

Even with the softer housing market, the typical Noe Valley home sold in September for slightly more than the seller's asking price. The homes getting top dollar were those with parking, on low-traffic streets, with fewer steps, and in great condition.

Buyers are "less inclined" to make offers on properties without such amenities because they now have a wider choice of homes that meet their criteria, Kostick said.

Kostick noted that one house with a \$1.1 million price tag sold in September for \$870,000 after 242 days on the market. "Everyone one else had parking," he said.

The most expensive home sold for \$1,525,000—\$75,000 over the asking price—and closed escrow in 13 days. The three-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath gem, with 2,000 square feet and two-car parking, is located in the 700 block of Diamond Street, between 23rd and 24th streets.

As for condos, their price tag in Noe Valley actually went up in September. The Zephyr data showed that six condominiums sold during the month, at an average price of \$907,500. Buyers typically paid the seller's full asking price and closed escrow in an average 55 days.

The eight transactions in August 2008 had an average price of \$780,000.

Still, readers should not bet the farm on these statistics. As with the single-family homes, the sample size for one month of condo sales in Noe Valley is pretty small.

For the record, September's most expensive condo, with 2,100 square feet of space, sold for \$1,150,000. The three-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath unit, with one parking space, sits in the 200 block of Day Street, between Sanchez and Church streets. ■

### A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents Sept.-Oct. 2008	Average Sept.-Oct. 2008	Average Sept.-Oct. 2007
Studio	9	\$1,100 - \$2,550	\$1,602 / mo.	\$1,424 / mo.
1-bedroom	29	\$1,000 - \$2,750	\$2,070 / mo.	\$2,042 / mo.
2-bedroom	28	\$2,200 - \$5,500	\$3,269 / mo.	\$3,069 / mo.
3-bedroom	13	\$2,795 - \$7,400	\$4,495 / mo.	\$4,579 / mo.
4+-bedroom	8	\$3,650 - \$15,000	\$7,850 / mo.	\$7,560 / mo.

\*\* Survey based on a sample of 87 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist from Sept. 16 to Oct. 15, 2008. NVV 11/08

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Noe Valley homes sold in July was \$1,847,000. (See last month's *Cost of Living*, at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).)

Accompanying the lower prices was a longer wait to seal the deal. Homes lingered on the market in September for an average two months—64 days—before new owners started to load boxes into moving vans. That was in sharp contrast to a year earlier, when buyers picked up their keys in less than a month—29 days.

Zephyr general manager Randall Kostick cited two reasons for the lengthy escrow: more diligent lenders and more vigilant buyers taking time to allow professional inspectors to determine whether a property had hidden flaws.

Kostick said financial institutions, which are currently facing billions of dollars in loan defaults, "are being more detailed in their review" of buyers' financial worthiness. It now takes about three weeks to process a loan, compared with 7 to 10 days during the rush of the boom market, he said.

Back before the mortgage meltdown, many buyers, caught up in the frenzy of bidding in a hot market, made offers without getting their own inspectors to assess a property's condition, such as roof and foundation.



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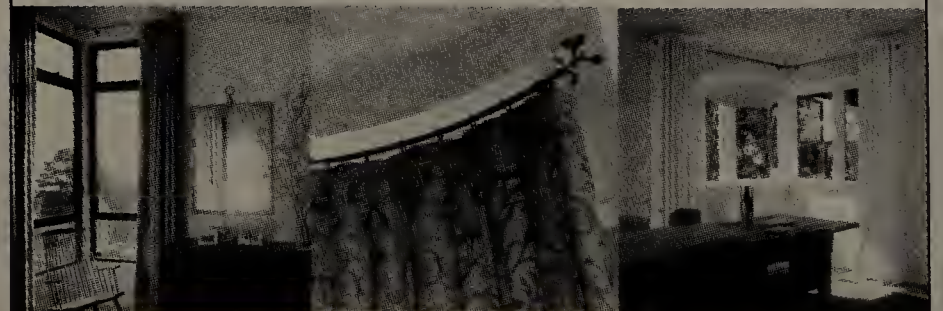
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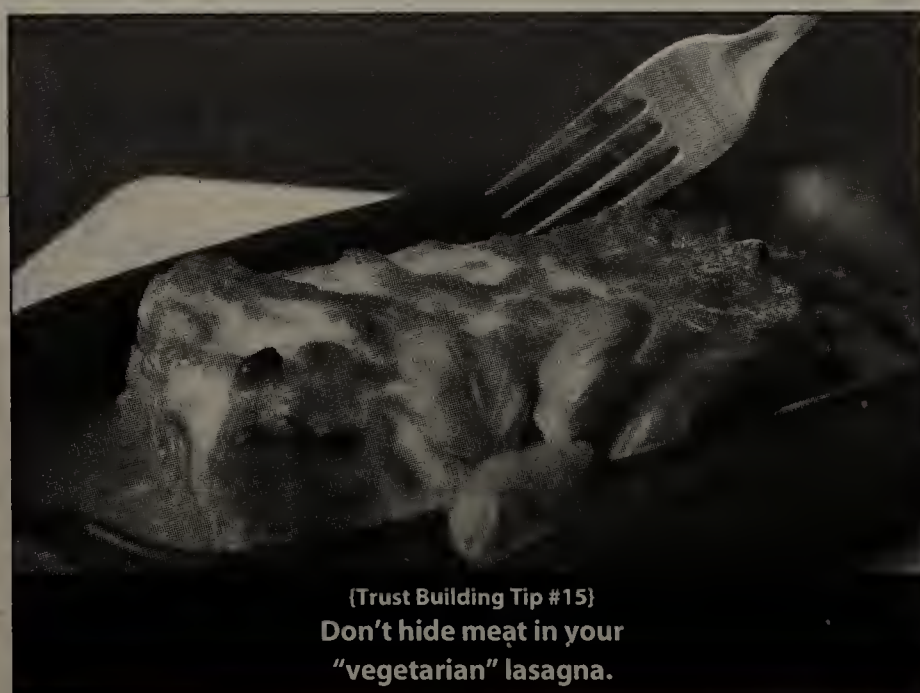
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# CRIME BEAT

## Report from Mission Station

By Officer Jane Warner  
San Francisco Patrol Special Police

The following crime summaries were culled from reports filed at Mission Police Station. They cover some but not all incidents occurring in northern Noe Valley, which is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 20th, Guerrero, and Cesar Chavez streets. Incidents occurred during the period Sept. 28 to Oct. 18, 2008.

**Burglary, 4100 block of 24th, 9-28-08, 8:22 a.m. (reported):** When the owner showed up at her 24th Street cafe the morning of Sept. 28, she discovered the cash register drawer lying on the floor of the kitchen and half a gallon of milk sitting on the counter. The owner also discovered the back door slightly ajar. After taking inventory, she called 911. Officers soon arrived and determined the suspect(s) gained entry through an unlocked window and left through the back door. Approximately \$900 was missing from the register.

**Battery, Jersey and Vicksburg, 10-16-08, 11 a.m.:** A woman walking west on Jersey Street suddenly felt something hit her on the back. The woman turned to see what it was and saw two teenage girls standing behind her holding snowballs. The woman did not know where the girls had gotten the snowballs, but told them not to throw any more at her. One of the girls, who appeared to be about 14, threw another snowball at the woman, striking her below the left eye, leaving an abrasion. The two suspects laughed and ran away eastbound on Jersey Street. The woman reported the incident to police, but refused medical attention, stating she wasn't seriously injured.

**Theft from Vehicle, 900 block of Sanchez, 10-16-08, 9:16 p.m. (reported):** While inside her house, a woman heard a commotion outside and looked out her front door to see what was going on. The woman saw a strange man leaning forward into the passenger side of her parked vehicle. "What are you doing?" the woman asked the man. "I'm taking a piss," he replied. The woman ran down the stairs of her house toward the man, screaming for him to get away from her car. The suspect, described as a five-foot-six white male, 25 to 30 years old, 160 pounds, with brown hair, wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans, ran southbound on Sanchez. The woman discovered that her purse, containing her wallet, credit cards, dri-

ver's license, and \$40 in cash, was missing. Officers responded to the scene to take a report. The woman told officers she may not have locked her car.

**Theft: 900 block of Noe, 10-17-08, 9:41 a.m. (reported):** A woman reported to police that someone had stolen her mail. The resident told officers she had checked her mailbox three days ago and had observed several letters. The woman didn't collect the mail and went back three days later, but the mailbox was empty. The woman estimated that about 30 pieces of mail, including some Netflix DVDs, were missing. Officers filed a report and forwarded a copy to the U.S. Postal Service police.

**Stolen License Plates, 4300 block of 26th, 10-17-08, 10:20 p.m. (reported):** While getting into her Volvo station wagon parked in her driveway, a woman noticed that the car had different license plates. The woman called 911 to report the incident, and an officer came to her house to take a report. The arriving officer ran a computer check on the plates that were attached to her wagon, and discovered they had been reported stolen as well. The officer contacted the reporting party to that theft, a resident on the Great Highway, who told the officer that he had also found different plates on his car and reported the incident about a week prior. The officer confiscated the plates on the woman's station wagon and advised her to contact DMV.

**Dog Bite, 700 block of Dolores, 10-18-08, 2:46 p.m.:** While playing football with his father in Dolores Park, a 7-year-old boy ran past a large dog that was leashed to his owner. Although the owner had a hold of the leash, the Giant Schnauzer suddenly lunged at the boy and bit him on his right elbow. 911 was called, and an ambulance responded, as well as two officers. The owner of the dog showed the officers proof of current vaccinations, as medics treated the boy for two small lacerations and released him to his father. Animal Care and Control arrived and took custody of the dog for quarantine observation.

**Theft from Person, Dolores Park public restroom, 10-18-08, 3:05 p.m.:** While patrolling the Red Bull Soapbox Race held near Dolores Park, several officers responded to a report of a man stuck in a port-a-potty. When they arrived, the officers knocked on the door, and a man yelled through the closed door that it was jammed. One of the officers used his baton to pry open the door which quickly swung open, exposing a man without any pants on. "Where are your pants?" the officer asked. "They got stolen." The man said. He went on to explain he had entered the port-a-potty with another man about two hours earlier, and the two had engaged in consensual sex. After their encounter, he said, his new acquaintance stole his pants, wallet, and backpack and then fled out of the john in an unknown direction. The man locked the door because he was too embarrassed to come out without pants and didn't know what else to do. One of the officers went to Mission Station and retrieved the man a pair of uniform pants, while other officers stood guard at the door. The victim told officers he did not know the suspect, described as a white male, 23 to 26 years old, six feet tall, 165 pounds with blond hair and brown eyes, wearing only light brown shorts and now possibly the victim's pants, black jeans. A search of the area was negative.

Officer Jane Warner is a member of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which works in association with the San Francisco Police Department. You can reach her by e-mailing [sfpatrol@earthlink.net](mailto:sfpatrol@earthlink.net) or calling 559-9955.

## Report from Ingleside Station

Ingleside Police Captain Denis O'Leary offers the Voice a monthly crime log for Upper Noe Valley, an area roughly bordered by Cesar Chavez, Guerrero, 30th, and Diamond streets. This month's log covers incidents reported to Ingleside Station from Sept. 16 to Oct. 15, 2008. If you would like to receive Capt. O'Leary's weekly e-mail newsletter, send an e-mail to [InglesideStationNewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:InglesideStationNewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.com). You can also view updates and get information online at [www.sfgov.org/police](http://www.sfgov.org/police).

### UPPER NOE VALLEY CRIME LOG

Capt. O'Leary's Incident Report for Sept. 16 to Oct. 15, 2008

**Auto Burglary, Dolores and Day, 9-17-08, 2:45 pm:** 2001 Honda Accord stolen.

**Attempted Theft from Building, 400 block of 29th, 9-18-08, 1:15 p.m.:** Witness confronted a white male in his 40s, five feet eight, weighing 130 pounds, wearing a black cap, black jacket, and black pants. Suspect claimed that he was looking for an air pump. No loss reported.

**Traffic Collision, 30th and Dolores, 9-18-08, 2:10 p.m.:** Hit and run (property damage).

**Theft, 100 block of Duncan, 9-18-08, 7 p.m.:**

**Vehicle Found, first block of 29th, 9-18-08, 7 p.m.:** 1994 Honda Accord recovered.

**Traffic Collision, Duncan and Castro, 9-23-08, 2:10 a.m.:** One party injured.

**Vehicle Found, 500 block of 30th, 9-23-08, 11:15 a.m.:** 1995 Honda Accord recovered.

**Warrant Service, Duncan and Guerrero, 9-23-08, 8:40 p.m.:** 38-year-old Noe Valley man arrested for parole violation warrant.

**Stolen Vehicle, Church and 28th, 9-25-08, 6:20 p.m.:**

**Attempted Auto Burglary, 1500 block of Sanchez, 9-25-08, 7 p.m.:**

**Residential Burglary, 600 block of 29th, 9-26-08, 1:40 p.m.:** Occurred between 9/22 and 9/25. Entry via rear bedroom door. Jewelry, computers, electronic gear, and cash taken.

**Residential Burglary, 300 block of Day, 9-27-08, 12:50 p.m.:** Occurred between 9/24 and 9/25. Entry via unlocked garage door. Bicycle taken.

**Theft from Unlocked Vehicle, 300 block of Day, 9-27-08, noon:** Occurred in August.

**Vehicle Found, 1500 block of Church, 9-30-08, 10 a.m.:** 1994 Honda Accord recovered.

**Vehicle Found, 500 block of 30th, 9-30-08, 11 a.m.:** 1995 Honda Civic recovered.

**Stolen Vehicle, 300 block of Duncan, 10-1-08, 9 a.m.:** 1996 Nissan SUV stolen.

**Auto Burglary, 29th and Dolores, 10-1-08, 10 p.m.:** Internet report.

**Dog Attack, 200 block of 29th, 10-4-08, 6 p.m.:** 37-year-old Noe Valley man admonished in a dog attack.

**Battery, first block of Valley, 10-4-08, 8 p.m.:** Officer Tovar investigated a Domestic Violence incident and named a 48-year-old Noe Valley man as a suspect. During an initial investigation at the home, a 70-year-old man, the suspect's father, kicked an officer in the leg and was cited for battery. Case #081059256.

**Stolen Vehicle, 300 block of Duncan, 10-4-08, 10 p.m.:**

**Aggravated Assault, first block of Valley, 10-5-08, 5 p.m.:** Officer Sullivan and Officer Neill served a court order on a Domestic Violence suspect (named in a prior report) and arrested the 48-year-old Noe Valley man for felony battery and aggravated assault. Case #081060009.

**Attempted Residential Burglary, 1300 block of Noe, 10-6-08, 8:15 a.m.:** Occurred between 10/5 and 10/6. Resident heard noise in the night and awoke to find damage to exterior door's knob. No entry gained and no loss reported.

**Grand Theft, 100 block of Day, 10-7-08, 1:45 p.m.:** Internet report.

**Theft from Building, 200 block of 30th, 10-8-08, 11:30 a.m.:**

**Theft 10-9-08, 200 block of Day, 3:40 p.m.:** Internet report.

### Online Reporting

The SFPD has an online reporting system for the following crimes:

- Lost Property
- Theft
- Vandalism/Graffiti
- Vehicle Tampering
- Vehicle Burglary
- Harassing Phone Calls

Using this system allows you to submit a report and instantly print out a copy. Additional information is available at the SFPD's website: [www.sfgov.org/police](http://www.sfgov.org/police).

### Noe's Police Districts

Noe Valley falls under the wing of two San Francisco police districts: Mission and Ingleside. Mission police cover the northern half of the neighborhood, including 24th Street, and Ingleside police the southern half, starting at Cesar Chavez Street.

Both districts hold monthly meetings that are open to the public. Mission Police District's community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, at 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Police Station off Balboa Park at San Jose Avenue.

To speak to an officer at Mission Station, call 558-5400. The station's tip line for anonymous reporting of drug or gang activity is 392-2623. To contact Ingleside, call 404-4000. The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 575-4444. For citywide online reporting and e-mail addresses, go to [www.sfgov.org/police](http://www.sfgov.org/police).

You can also find crime data, sorted by zip code, at [www.CrimeReports.com](http://www.CrimeReports.com) or <http://sf.everyblock.com/>.

To report a crime in progress, call 911.

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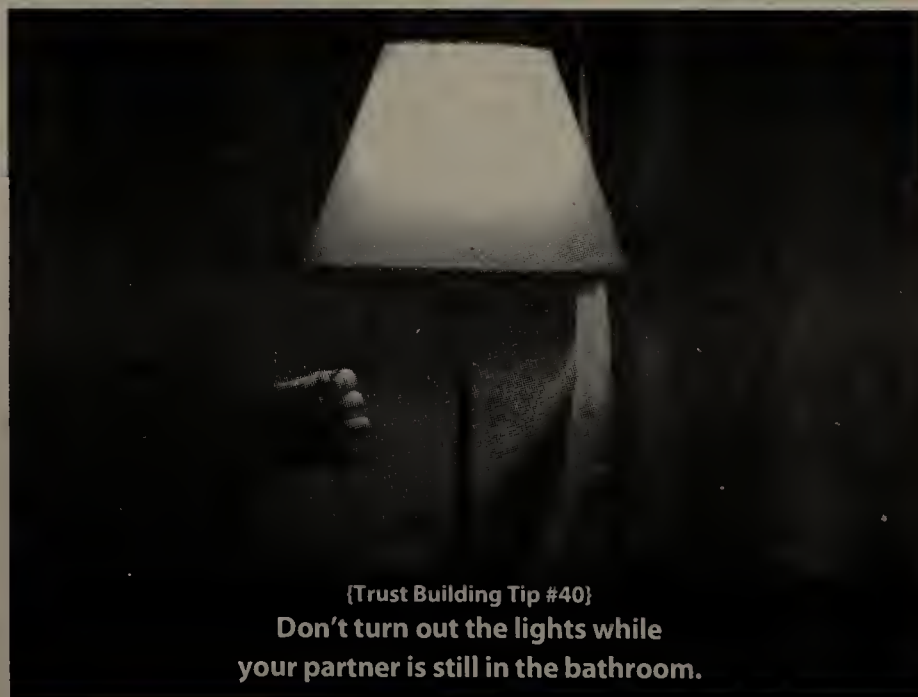
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# SHORT TAKES

## Yo, Obamacrats!

If the historic 2008 presidential campaign turned you into a political junkie, take heart. The Noe Valley Democratic Club has just the thing.

Campaign consultant and demographic statistician David Latterman will discuss the Nov. 4 election results at the club's next meeting, on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Sarah Palin isn't invited. But Latterman promises to be entertaining nonetheless.

President of Fall Line Analytics, Latterman says he uses a variety of scientific techniques to analyze political campaigning and public opinion. Unlike many analysts who work from inside the political process, he prefers to study the voters and how their demographics and opinions shape elections.

Among his credentials is a master's degree in public policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley.

The meeting will be held at St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond Street between Elizabeth and 24th streets.

For the scoop on the Democratic Club, contact Andrew Fleischman at 641-5838.

—Laura McHale Holland

## Butterflies to Read By

For more than 30 years, neighborhood residents have planted flowers, vegetables, and trees in the plots surrounding the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street. However, during branch renovations over the past two years, the garden had to be cleared out. Construction crews were able to save only a few tall trees.

Now the library's friends and neighbors are working to help bring bees, butterflies, and birds back to the peaceful patch of earth. Twenty-fourth Street resident and longtime Friends of Noe Valley member Eleanor Gerhardt, and Duncan Street resident Kim Drew, who led the library's fundraising campaign, will host a meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m., to talk about ways the garden areas might be restored.

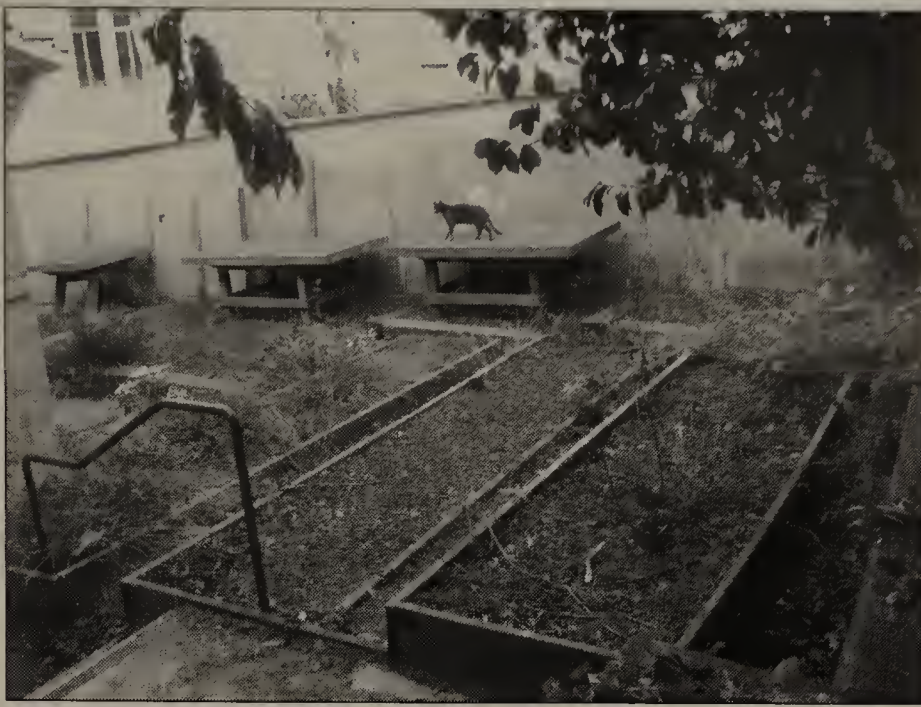
The brainstorming session will be held in the ground-floor community room at the award-winning library (see story, page 17), located at 451 Jersey Street between Castro and Diamond streets. The public is welcome to attend.

If you have questions, call Gerhardt at 826-0522 or Drew at 643-4695.

—Sally Smith

## Jazz Vespers Can Lift You Up

Jazz Vespers, a once-a-month Sunday evening worship at the Noe Valley Ministry, continues this fall with a Nov. 16 appearance by jazz artists Anton Schwartz and Gerry Grosz. Schwartz and Grosz will infuse the liturgy with the mellow tones of saxophone and vibraharp.



A group of residents (and possibly one cat) will meet on Nov. 12 to explore ways to revive the now-barren garden plots behind the Noe Valley Library.

Photo by Sally Smith

Now in its third season, Jazz Vespers carries on a tradition started in 1960s New York for musicians too tired from Saturday night gigs to make Sunday morning services. The combination of music and liturgy seeks to connect musicians (and others) to their spirituality through music.

The informal service starts with a welcome by Rev. Keenan Kelsey, pastor of the Presbyterian Church. Then comes the music—from improvisational jazz to old standards, John Coltrane to Duke Ellington—played by professional musicians performing at clubs all over the Bay Area. During short interludes, there may be readings from scripture, but don't expect a traditional service.

"It's totally uplifting," says Ministry building manager Marshal Cousins.

Jazz Vespers happens on third Sundays from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Upper Hall at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street. The current season runs through June and will include performances by the Paul Scheffert Trio (Dec. 21), Clairdee and Ken French (Jan. 18), and the Dave Rocha Quartet (Feb. 15).

Call 282-2317 or visit [www.noevalleyministry.org](http://www.noevalleyministry.org) for more information.

—Heather World

## Gallop to a Walk-a-thon

The kids and parents at Paul Revere College Preparatory School in Bernal Heights are hoping you will help them lead the charge at a Walk-a-thon and Silent Auction on Saturday, Nov. 15.

The event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., is sponsored by the PTA to raise money for school programs.

From 10 a.m. to noon, you can join students and their families in a stroll around the school building and yard, along Tomkins, Folsom, Jarboe, and Banks streets. The auction, offering a variety of gifts, art works, and services, runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Musical entertainment and a potluck lunch will be provided as well.

Besides fun and exercise, the PTA hopes to promote ties with the surround-

ing community, says school parent Lorraine Orlandi. "We are asking area businesses and individuals to help sponsor the event with financial or in-kind contributions. Families, friends, and local merchants can sponsor participating students in the Walk-a-thon with financial pledges."

Paul Revere, located at 555 Tompkins Avenue, is the San Francisco school district's only pre-K through eighth-grade Spanish and English immersion public school. Donations may be made by calling parent volunteer Anabel Ibañez at 239-5960 or Dr. Lance Tagamori, the school's principal, at 695-5656.

—Sally Smith

## Hats on for St. Luke's

Why not bring in the holiday season with the dazzling vocals, wild hats, and good humor of Beach Blanket Babylon? And all for a good cause.

The song and dance troupe's first 2008 holiday performance, at Club Fugazi Wednesday, Nov. 19, 8 p.m., is a fundraising effort sponsored by the St. Luke's Auxiliary, a group that supports users of St. Luke's Hospital on Cesar Chavez Street.

Proceeds from the event will help needy kids get services at a special children's clinic staffed by a team of pediatricians, psychologists, and speech, occupational, and physical therapists.

"Most parents or caregivers in our St. Luke's family do not have the means to pay for these services. The Auxiliary's fundraising effort will help defer costs for these children so they can look forward to brighter futures," says St. Luke's volunteer services manager Grace D'Anca, who along with Noe Valley residents Janet Bollier, Peg Purcell, and Carol Maerzke is working to put on the event.

In addition to the entertainment, long-time supporter Connie Mardikian will be honored for her many years of service to St. Luke's. Tickets are \$200 for preferred seating with program listing (patron), \$150 for good seating with program listing (sponsor), and \$85 for general seating (friend).

You can also buy "opportunity" tickets for \$10 apiece. Prizes include a three-night stay at a deluxe Silverado condo with a \$100 gift certificate to the Silverado Grill, three nights at a Monterey Dunes condo with tickets to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and a mix of other dining and apparel gifts.

To procure the Beach Blanket Babylon tickets or for further information, call St. Luke's volunteer office at 641-6490 or e-mail D'Anca at [dancag@sutterhealth.org](mailto:dancag@sutterhealth.org).

—Laura McHale Holland

## A Grand Night for SOTA

Young Noe Valley resident Adam Maggio, a junior at San Francisco School of the Arts (SOTA), thinks his school is remarkably lucky to be representing California in the 2009 American High School Theater Festival at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, this August. "The Fringe Festival will be an amazing experience," he says.

Adam is one of 45 students Dan Kryston, SOTA's theater director, will be taking to Scotland for a "once-in-a-lifetime experience" at an international event attracting hundreds of thousands of theater-goers.

"It was a great privilege just to be nominated, but to be chosen by the festival as one of only 52 performing schools [from the U.S.] is an honor," says Kryston. The teens will perform the tap-dancing musical *Dames at Sea* four times during their stay in Scotland.

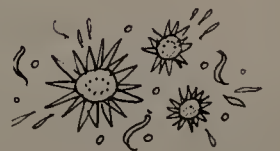
Adam says he will learn two roles for the 1930s style spoof, *Hennessey* and *Captain Courageous*, and is already taking tap-dancing lessons.

Meanwhile, he and other SOTA students are rehearsing for Rodgers and Hammerstein's *A Grand Night for Singing*, which will open on Nov. 16, 2008, at 4 p.m., at the Palace of Fine Arts on Lyon Street. Adam, who has a lead in the show, guarantees "the audience will be humming these catchy Rodgers and Hammerstein songs for weeks."

Tickets for *Grand Night*, which is the school's gala fundraiser, are \$30, \$40, and \$50. VIP passes are \$50 (\$25 is tax-deductible) for pre- and post-concert receptions featuring wines, appetizers, and desserts from local wineries and restaurants. You can call in your order to the SOTA Box Office: 415-695-5720, or buy online at [www.sfsota.org](http://www.sfsota.org).

To sponsor a student for the Scotland trip, send tax-deductible contributions (checks made out to Production 2009) to Dan Kryston, San Francisco School of the Arts, 555 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131.

—Lorri Ferguson



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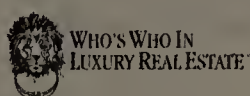
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## Greening Advances Along Guerrero

Plantings Sprout from 20th to 30th Streets

By Heather World

Guerrero Street will get greener this fall, as volunteers descend on the busy street's medians to replace torn-up concrete with trees, brush, and plants.

"It's the closest thing to a block party on Guerrero," says resident Gillian Gillett, who has led the planting effort as part of a traffic-calming plan.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, neighbors zeroed in on the block between Cesar Chavez and 25th Street. They got busy planting arrangements designed by Flora Grubb of Flora Grubb Gardens, once located on Guerrero. Not all of the plants are native, Gillett says, but they were selected with an eye toward surviving heat from the blacktop, glare, and cars' exhaust.

"Sometimes it's 200 degrees there," says Gillett, who has measured the temperature while weeding, pruning, and picking up trash.

Since 2006, hundreds of volunteers organized by the San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets have worked to widen and green the median strips on Guerrero. They first tackled those from



Gillian Gillett and her neighbors along Guerrero Street are planting trees and other greenery on the avenue's median strips. They hope the effort will help slow traffic. Photo by Pamela Gerard

30th to Cesar Chavez streets; by December the group should reach 20th Street. Along the way, the coalition convinced the city to replace one lane in each direction of Cesar Chavez with a bike lane, reduce the speed limit to 25 mph, and add a light at Duncan Street.

When Gillett, a mother of two, first went door to door with a traffic-calming

application five years ago, she spent hours listening to stories about people injured in car crashes and vehicles slammed into buildings. Now, she says, the number of collisions on Guerrero has dropped by more than 50 percent.

Support from the neighborhood has been overwhelming, Gillett says. Residents have donated hundreds of dollars

and organized bake sales and neighborhood teas to add to grants and money donated from businesses like Safeway and Zephyr Real Estate.

Gillett says the green medians effort costs about \$8,000 per block. But the city pays to lift the concrete, and blocks off a lane in each direction on planting day.

Volunteers show up rain or shine, happy to dig, eat, and listen to music from the Aaron Cohen Jazz Trio. The socializing has brought residents closer together.

"We have a dozen families who expressly stayed in this neighborhood because of this," says Gillett.

To volunteer, visit the coalition's website at [www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com). Or show up at one of the upcoming plantings on Guerrero:

- 24th to 25th streets: Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 23rd to 24th streets: Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 21st to 22nd streets: Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 20th to 21st streets: Saturday, Dec. 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 22nd to 23rd streets: Saturday, Dec. 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.\*

\*Demolition of this block is expected to begin in early November. The developer of a nine-unit condominium project recently received a permit to begin work. ■

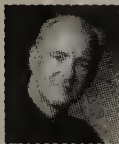
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# Pilates

## Fall Mat Class Schedule

Drop in or Register On-line

### Monday

6:00-6:55pm Pilates Mat  
7:15-8:45pm Yoga, Hatha Flow

### Tuesday

12:00-12:55pm Pilates Mat  
6:30-8:00pm Yoga, Vinyasa Flow

### Wednesday

9:30-10:25am Yoga Morning Flow  
6:00-6:55pm Pilates Mat with Props  
7:15-8:45pm Yoga, Hatha Flow

### Thursday

6:30-8:00pm Yoga, Vinyasa Flow

### Friday

9:30-10:25am Yoga Morning Flow  
10:30-11:25pm Pilates Mat with Props

### Saturday

9:00-10:25am Yoga, Vinyasa Flow  
10:30-11:25am Pilates Mat

Private Pilates and Reformer  
classes by appointment



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# Yoga

## Fall Workshops

See Website For Details & Registration

### Prenatal Pilates & Yoga

Thursdays, 10/30-12/4 5:30-6:25pm  
\$100, \$22 Drop In

### Anatomy In Clay: Building the Core

Sunday, November 2nd 9:00-6:00pm  
\$225

### Kid's Yoga

Tuesdays, beginning 11/4 3:30pm  
See website or call for details

### Intro to Yoga for Stress Management

Saturday, November 8th 1:30-3:30pm  
\$35

## Intro Specials

Yoga & Mat Pilates  
\$20 for First 2 Classes

Private Pilates  
\$168 for First 3 Sessions





**Fair Faces.** Posing for artist Gordon Ng at the Harvest Fair are (from left) Ella Scanga, Violet Buffalo and Dalilah Buffalo.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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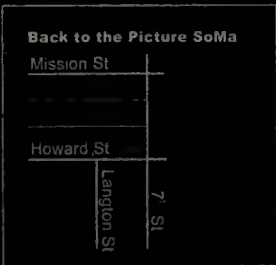
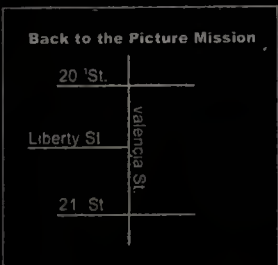
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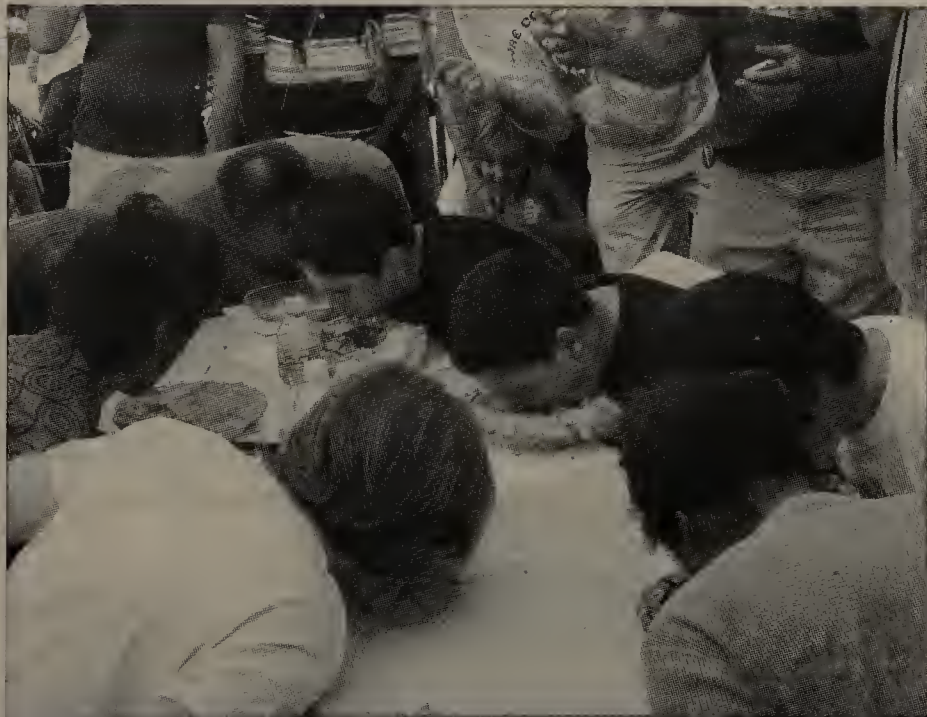
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## Fair Weather Fair Time

As temperatures stayed in the mid-seventies, Noe Valley joined in the season of "street fairs" popular in San Francisco with its own Harvest Fair on Saturday, Oct. 25.

The Noe Valley offering featured many booths by locals. All three Catholic schools that serve Noe Valley, St. Philip's, St. Paul's and St. James were represented plus local businesses such as Spring Pilates and Fima Photography had special offerings.

The pie eating contest gathered quite a crowd (top photo and detail photo above) and music filled the air from the Church St. stage. See you next year.

Photos by Pamela Gerard





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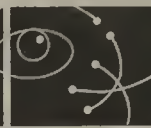
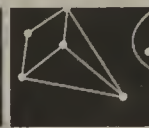
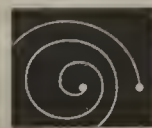
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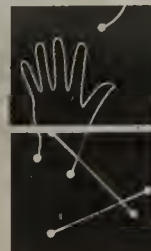
preschool-eighth grade



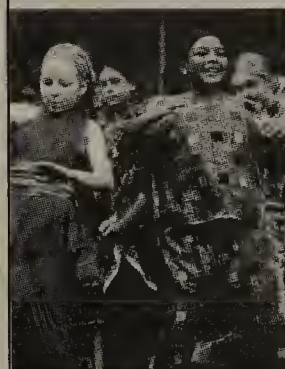
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# NOVEMBER

**Nov. 1 & Dec. 6:** The Swinging GUITARS of Tom Huber and Misisipi Mike (8:30 am) and Failure to Disperse (10:30 am) play the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg 248-1332; [www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com](http://www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com).

**Nov. 1-29:** Jane Fisher exhibits PAINTINGS in "Down Time" at ArtZone 461 Gallery. 461 Valencia. 441-8680.

**Nov. 1-30:** Eighteen paintings by Noe Valley artist BEN DOMINGUEZ are on display at Cafe Bianco. 39 Sutter St. 421-2091.

**Nov. 2 & 16:** SF City Guides leads free WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**Nov. 3-26:** LANGO sponsors weekly classes in Tot/Parent (Mon., 10 am) and Preschooler SPANISH (Tues., 2 pm; Wed., 3 pm). Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. [www.langokids.com](http://www.langokids.com).

**Nov. 3-28:** Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

**Nov. 3-29:** OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Monday through Saturday, 7 to 8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Nov. 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Chris Sequeira gives a beginners TAI CHI class Tuesdays, 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Register: 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

**Nov. 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesday STORY HOUR, for newborns to age 4. 10 am. 3850 24th. 821-3477.

**Nov. 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

**Nov. 4 & 25:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a preschool STORY TIME from 11 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**Nov. 4 & Dec. 2:** The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama. 554-3050.

**Nov. 5:** The RADAR READING hosted by Michelle Tea features Stephanie Kuehart, Pilou Miller, Danny El Lute Levesque, and Marriage. 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. [www.sfcb.org](http://www.sfcb.org).

**Nov. 5:** RAMON SENDER BARAYON reads from collected essays, and displays artwork at Cover to Cover. 7 pm. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**Nov. 5:** Marlene Aron discusses the life and work of VINCENT VAN GOGH with a slideshow. 7-8 pm. Excelsior Library, 4400 Mission. 355-2868.

**Nov. 5, 12, 19 & 26:** Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday LAPSIT, for newborns to age 3, begins at 3 pm; an afternoon story time for ages 3 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. Tiny Tots Room, 100 Collingwood. 557-4353.

**Nov. 5-28:** Maria Tam teaches a new YIJIN TAI CHI class at Upper Noe Rec Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. 7-8:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 828-9436.

**Nov. 6:** The Eureka Valley Library hosts YOGA FOR KIDS ages 5 and under. 10:45-11:30 am. 100 Collingwood. 557-4353.

**Nov. 6:** Pacific Institute will award one of two 2008 Eldership Awards to KEIKO FUKUDA, 95-year-old founder of the Soko Joshi Judo Club on Castro. 6:30 pm. Marines Memorial Club, 609 Sutter. 861-3455; [www.pacificinstitute.org](http://www.pacificinstitute.org).

**Nov. 6, 13 & 20:** A Thursday STROLLER WALK starts at Holey Bagel at 11 am and rolls through Noe and the Castro. 3872 24th. [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

**Nov. 6-Dec. 6:** SF Camerawork hosts an exhibit of PHOTOGRAPHS by 200 artists. Reception Nov. 6, 5-8 pm. Benefit auction Dec. 6, 1 pm. 657 Mission. 512-2020; [www.sfcamerawork.org](http://www.sfcamerawork.org).

**Nov. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** CLARE tells tales for children at Cover to Cover's Friday-morning story hour, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

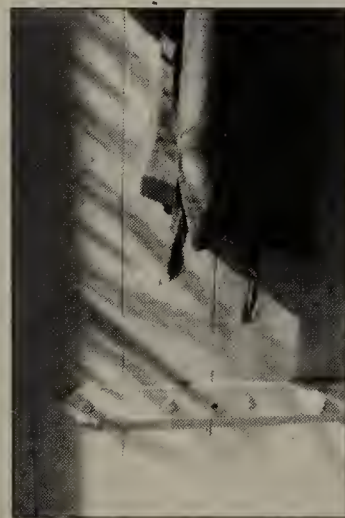
**Nov. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts CHILDREN'S STORY TIME Friday mornings at 11 am. 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

**Nov. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Yell "BINGO!" at St. Paul's Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

**Nov. 7-9:** The Miraloma HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE features handcrafted wares from 19 artist/craftspeople. Fri., 5-9 pm; Sat., 10 am-4 pm.; Sun., 11 am-4 pm. Miraloma Improvement Club, O'Shaughnessy at Del Vale. 522-1560.

**Nov. 7-29:** City Art Gallery hosts a members ART EXHIBIT. Reception Nov. 7, 7-10 pm; Wed.-Sun., noon-9 pm. 828 Valencia. 970-9900; [www.cityart-gallery.com](http://www.cityart-gallery.com).

**Nov. 8:** This, That, and Mora (8:30 am) and Quake City (10:30 am) provide MUSIC at the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; [www.noevalley-farmersmarket.com](http://www.noevalley-farmersmarket.com).



Photos such as this by Noe Valley photographer Angelika Schilli will be part of "Nine Visions of Loss" at the Berkeley Art Center Nov. 2 to Dec. 7. A reception for the artists, all members of the Bay Area Photography Collective, is Nov. 12, 7 pm, at the gallery, 1275 Walnut Street, Berkeley

pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; [www.birdbeckett.com](http://www.birdbeckett.com).

**Nov. 10:** A free workshop in how to present a case in SMALL CLAIMS court starts at 6 pm. 760 Market, Suite 1042, 10th Floor. 693-9811.

**Nov. 10:** Parents for Public School talk about SCHOOL CHOICES in SF at a meeting co-sponsored by Friends of the SF Library. 7 pm. Sunset Library, 1305 18th Ave. 626-7512, ext. 107; [mary.abler@friendssfpl.org](mailto:mary.abler@friendssfpl.org).

**Nov. 11-20:** Mission Cultural Center hosts FILMS, including *The Man of Two Havanas*, in the 12th International Latino Film Festival. 2868 Mission. 821-1155. [www.latinofilmfestival.org](http://www.latinofilmfestival.org).

**Nov. 12:** Schools and libraries, and how they work together, are the focus of a PANEL of librarians, educators, and parents. 6:30-8 pm. 391 Grove St. 626-7512, ext. 107; [www.friendssfpl.org](http://www.friendssfpl.org).

**Nov. 12:** "Pause, give thanks, find peace" at a candlelight LABYRINTH WALK, featuring live music by violinist Margaret Coote. 6-7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; [www.noevalleyministry.org](http://www.noevalleyministry.org).

**Nov. 12:** The C.C. Puede community meeting discusses CITY PLANS for the Cesar Chavez Street corridor. 6:30 pm. Bernal Gateway Apartments, 3101 Mission. <http://ccpuede.org>

**Nov. 12:** Bring design and planting ideas for the Noe Valley Library's outdoor spaces to a RESTORE THE GARDENS meeting. 7 pm. 451 Jersey. Eleanore Gerhardt, 826-0522.

**Nov. 12:** Demographic statistician David Latterman discusses the outcome of the PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION at the Noe Valley Democratic Club meeting. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 641-5838

**Nov. 12:** CounterPulse's *Shaping San Francisco* series continues with "The Invisible Public Legacy of the GREAT DEPRESSION," by Gary Brechin of California's Living New Deal Project. 7:30 pm. 1310 Mission. 1-800-838-3006; [www.shapingsf.org](http://www.shapingsf.org).

## Betty Taisch Top Producer



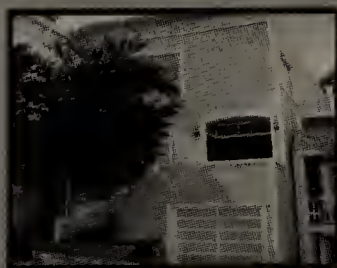
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# CALENDAR

**Nov. 13:** To find out about the city's greening plans, attend the OPEN SPACE Task Force meeting in the Bayside Conference Room at Pier 1. 3-5 pm. [www.openspacesf.org](http://www.openspacesf.org).

**Nov. 13:** RADICAL WOMEN discuss "The Persistent Power of Socialist Feminism," a conference held in October. 7 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin. 864-1278; [www.radicalwomen.org](http://www.radicalwomen.org).

**Nov. 13:** Authors of *The SF LABOR Landmarks Guidebook* discuss their literary tour of the city's working-class monuments, murals, and buildings. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246; [www.mtbs.com](http://www.mtbs.com).

**Nov. 13:** Therese Poletti gives a talk and slideshow about her book *ART DECO San Francisco*, featuring the Castro Theatre and the 450 Sutter Medical Building. 7:30 pm. The Booksmith, 1644 Haight. 863-8688; [www.booksmith.com](http://www.booksmith.com).

**Nov. 13-Dec. 13:** CARLO D'AMORE performs *No Parole* at the Marsh. Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm (no show Nov. 27, Dec. 4 & 5). 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

**Nov. 14:** The QUEER OPEN MIC features music, poetry, and creative writing. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246; [www.mtbs.com](http://www.mtbs.com).

**Nov. 14-16:** A GREEN FESTIVAL and environmental expo runs Fri., 1-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-8 pm; and Sun., 11 am-6 pm. SF Concourse Center, 635 8th. [www.greenfestivals.org](http://www.greenfestivals.org).

**Nov. 15:** The Noe Valley Farmers' Market hosts MUSIC by the Faux Brummels (8:30 am) and They Call Me Lucky (10:30 am). 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; [www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com](http://www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com).

**Nov. 15:** The PTA at Paul Revere School sponsors a WALK-A-THON (10 am-noon) and silent auction (11 am-1 pm), accompanied by food and music. 555 Tompkins. 239-5960.

**Nov. 15:** Register for winter (Jan. 3 to March 13) ART CLASSES at Sharon Art Studio, including ceramics, painting,

and jewelry design. 10 am-noon. Children's Playground, Golden Gate Park. 753-7004; [sharonartstudio.org](http://sharonartstudio.org).

**Nov. 15:** The Older Women's League (OWL) hosts a PANEL DISCUSSION, "How Will the 2008 Election Affect Women Over 50?" 10 am-noon. Mechanics Institute, 57 Post. Reserve a space at 989-4422.

**Nov. 15:** SANTA PAWS is available for pet photographs from 11 am to 4 pm (cats only from 11 am-noon). Maddie's Adoption Center Lobby, 250 Florida. 522-3500; [www.sfsfpa.org](http://www.sfsfpa.org).

**Nov. 15:** St. Paul's Auction and DINNER DANCE, "Una Bella Serata Piazza San Paolo," benefits the Preservation Fund. 6 pm. 221 Valley. 648-7538.

**Nov. 15:** The SF Conservatory of MUSIC hosts the world premiere of Aleksandra Vrebalov's "Transparent Walls," and works by Philip Collins, Kancheli, and Young-Shin Choi. 8 pm. 50 Oak. 503-6275.

**Nov. 16:** JUNE AHERN reads from *The Sky in June* from 1 to 3 pm at Danu Salon. 1304A Castro. 843-4405; [www.juneahern.com](http://www.juneahern.com).

**Nov. 16:** SOTA students perform Rodgers and Hammerstein's *A Grand Night for Singing* at the school's annual fundraising gala. 4 pm. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon. 695-5720; [www.sfsota.org](http://www.sfsota.org).

**Nov. 16:** The SF Children's Chorus and Teen Chorus give a free CONCERT featuring Broadway favorites and international songs. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp. 647-6015; [mission@sfcmc.org](mailto:mission@sfcmc.org).

**Nov. 16:** JAZZ VESPERS at the Noe Valley Ministry features jazz musicians Anton Schwartz and Gerry Grosz. 5-6 pm. Upper Hall, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; [www.noevalleyministry.org](http://www.noevalleyministry.org).

**Nov. 16:** Meet at the Panhandle statue, Fell and Baker, for a NIGHT RIDE to Nob Hill sponsored by the SF Bike Coalition. 6:30 pm. 431-BIKE; [www.sfbike.org](http://www.sfbike.org).

**Nov. 17:** Gerard Heather gives a post-ELECTION WRAP-UP at the Odd Mondays series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7 pm; dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Nov. 17:** In "PHYSICS for Future Presidents," Richard Muller of UC Berkeley discusses nuclear waste and terrorism. 7-9 pm. Atlas Café, 3049 20th. 648-1047; [www.sciencecafesf.com](http://www.sciencecafesf.com).

**Nov. 18:** Noe Valley Library shows FILMS for preschoolers, including *Leonardo the Terrible Monster*, at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**Nov. 18-Dec. 20:** Little Tree Gallery hosts an ART SHOW curated by Andrew Berardini. Wed.-Fri., 3-6 pm; Sat., noon-6 pm. 3412 22nd. 643-4929.

**Nov. 19:** City College offers a FREE class in vocal technique, with *Miss Saigon* star Vivian Sam. 2:30-5:30 pm. Ocean Campus, Creative Arts Bldg, Room 133, 50 Phelan. 239-3000.

**Nov. 19:** The Marsh presents Judy Juanita's two-woman PLAY *Counter-Terrorism*, a winner at the Bay Area Playwrights Festival. 7:30 pm. 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

**Nov. 19:** Mission Beach Café at 198 Guerrero Street hosts a dinner to benefit CREATIVITY EXPLORED. For reservations call 861-0198 or see [www.creativityexplored.org](http://www.creativityexplored.org).

**Nov. 20:** The Bernal Heights Library BOOK DISCUSSION Club features Carlos Castaneda's *Journey to Ixtlan*. 4 pm. 500 Cortland. 355-2810.

**Nov. 20:** American Indian scholar José Rivera discusses "INDIGENOUS People of the Bay Area." 7:30 pm. Randall

Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**Nov. 21:** The Office of HISTORIC PRESERVATION honors the Noe Valley Library with a Beven Award. 1 pm. Ballroom, Leland Stanford State Historic Park, 800 N Street, Sacramento. [www.chp.parks.ca.gov](http://www.chp.parks.ca.gov).

**Nov. 21:** The Bernal Hill Players chamber ensemble performs at 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp. 647-6015; [www.sfcmc.org](http://www.sfcmc.org).

**Nov. 21:** STRINGWOMAN'S BALL, a stringband dance party, features the Stairwell Sisters and the Creole Belles. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; [www.noevalleymusicseries.com](http://www.noevalleymusicseries.com).

**Nov. 21-Dec. 1:** Liz Worthy exhibits ceramics in "Light Sweet Crude," her show at Ruby's Clay Studio, 552A Noe. Reception Nov. 22, 6-9 pm. 602-9409; [www.rubyclaystudio.com](http://www.rubyclaystudio.com).

**Nov. 22:** Jude (8:30 am) and Swing Serenade (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332.

**Nov. 22:** In honor of Darwin's birthday, Evolve '09 hosts a discussion of EVOLUTION and religious thought with biology professor Dr. Kevin Padian and dean of Grace Cathedral Alan Jones. Noon-1:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; [sfpl.lib.ca.us](http://sfpl.lib.ca.us).

**Nov. 23:** Noe Valley Ministry hosts a FAMILY BOWLING Night to benefit the church building's maintenance. 5:30-8:30 pm. Seabowl Bowling Center, 4625 Coast Highway, Pacifica. 282-2317; [www.noevalleyministry.org](http://www.noevalleyministry.org).

**Nov. 25:** Journalist and City Guide Judy Vaughn discusses her history of the SALVATION ARMY, *The Bells of San Francisco*, at the San Francisco History Association meeting. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; [www.sanfranciscohistory.org](http://www.sanfranciscohistory.org).

**Nov. 25:** Modern Times' SPANISH book group discusses *El Juego del Ángel* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón Nov. 25, and holds a potluck gathering Dec. 9. Fourth Tues., 7 pm. 888 Valencia. 282-9246; [www.mtbs.com](http://www.mtbs.com).

**Nov. 26-Dec. 23:** The Castro Theatre screens the FILM *Milk*. 429 Castro. For show times: 621-6120; [www.castrotheatre.com](http://www.castrotheatre.com).

**Nov. 29:** This, That, and Mora (8:30 am) and Jude (10:30 am) perform MUSIC at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; [www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com](http://www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com).

**Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 6-7:** The Women's Building's 30th annual Celebration of CRAFTSWOMEN offers crafts, music, and food. Herbst Pavilion at Ft. Mason, Buchanan & Marina. 10 am to 5 pm on two weekends. 248-1373; [www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org](http://www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org).

**Dec. 1:** Photographer John Montgomery and writer Diane LeBow present "Images and Stones" from trips to India, Bhutan, and Micronesia, at the ODD MONDAYS series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7 pm; dinner Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Dec. 7:** Rocket DOG RESCUE shows off dogs who need homes. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

## DECEMBRR

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **December 2008/January 2009** double issue, appearing in Noe Valley the first week of December. Mail calendar items by **Nov. 15** to [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com) or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: Events in Noe Valley receive priority, but we'll consider items from all over the city.

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**Mona and the Vegetables:** The band Rupa and the Fishes helped artist Mona Caron (center) and a huge crowd of supporters celebrate the unveiling of two murals Sept. 27 in the Noe Valley Ministry parking lot on 24th Street. The brightly colored art works, made possible by a Community Challenge grant, show intricate street scenes surrounded by giant carrots, radishes, and artichokes. The city was on hand, too, to declare it Mona Caron Day. Photo by Pamela Gerard



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# NOE MOTION

*The election. The economy. Daily robocalls from beloved insurance companies. There was so much stress in our lives last month, it was all we could do not to crash the bouncy tent at the Harvest Fest. So when tai chi instructor Chris Sequeira offered to share his best relaxation technique—a beginning posture in tai chi—we bowed and said yes, please. Sequeira has 26 years of experience teaching tai chi and other forms of meditative exercise in Noe Valley. We know you will appreciate his gentle remedy for anxious times.*

## Living T'ai Chi in Everyday Life

By Chris Sequeira

**T**'ai chi (or tai chi) is a Chinese word that implies the interaction of opposing forces, such as light and dark, positive and negative, male and female, and fast and slow. It is often associated with *t'ai chi chuan*, a martial art that strives to apply the use of opposing forces to achieve harmony while dealing with an opponent. When used as a health practice, tai chi is an attempt to balance the forces within the body and its movements. It is a perfect blend of relaxation and exercise.

The tai chi philosophy has even broader applications. To live tai chi is to be in continuous awareness of all the elements of your life—both inner and outer—and to stay balanced and harmonious to the best of your ability.

My suggestion for a first step in living tai chi would be to try the *wu chi* stand-

ing meditation posture. How we stand and breathe can have a considerable impact on our sense of well-being. In *t'ai chi chuan*, this posture is the starting point for a basic routine called the Form. It can be applied anytime and anywhere—while waiting in line or watching a sunset. If standing is not possible, you can sit comfortably straight with your palms resting above your knees.

### The Wu Chi Standing Meditation

Stand with your feet about shoulder-width apart and pointing forward. Center your weight behind the balls of your feet and in front of your heels. With your knees slightly bent, allow your hips to settle as you let go of any tension you may be holding in the small of your back. This will aid in letting your pelvis tuck gently forward as if you are sitting on a stool.

Do not force the posture but maintain a sense of ease. Let your shoulders hang loosely as you gently raise the top of your head, being careful to keep your chin pulled gently inward. Touch the tip of your tongue to your upper palate. Maintain a sense of softness within this shape, avoiding rigidity. Your eyes may be closed or gently opened and slightly angled downward.

Bringing your awareness to your breath, allow your belly to expand naturally as you inhale through your nose. Release any tension in your chest and solar plexus. Witness your body as it seems to breathe itself.

As you exhale, sense a wave of release from the top of your head down towards the earth. Feel the mass of your body sinking downward with each breath like

**The *wu chi* posture can be applied anytime and anywhere—while waiting in line or watching a sunset.**

sand in an hourglass, giving you the impression that your legs and feet are the heaviest part of your body. Let your mind and emotions quiet down as your weight surrenders to gravity. Allow your breath to gradually become slower and longer. Allow any disturbing qualities, whether emotional, mental, or physical, to drift downward like a muddy pool gradually becoming clear.

As your body is becoming more relaxed, sense new energy gathering with each inhalation. In calm attention, you feel the vitality buzzing in every cell of your body.

Sense the pure awareness and presence in which all your life experiences are known. Thinking is not a problem as you settle into that which is conscious of thought and therefore unbound by it.

In this core of fundamental human consciousness, you are poised in what is called the Heart of Heaven and Earth. When you are in *wu chi* awareness, which is only in the now, you are at a fresh beginning of your unfolding life story, the true point of power. Herein lie the roots of intelligence, creativity, sensitivity, deep appreciation, and trust in life as it is. Here is the potential for effective action and for a movement toward holistic wellness. ■

*Chris Sequeira welcomes your questions at 415-773-8185 or livingtaichi@yahoo.com. The extended version of this essay is on his blogspot. livingtaichiprinciples.blogspot.com. He is currently holding tai chi classes on Mondays and Tuesdays at 6 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street; and on Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:15 a.m., at Walter Haas Playground in Diamond Heights.*

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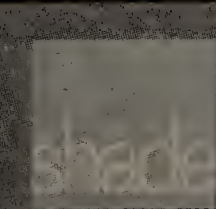
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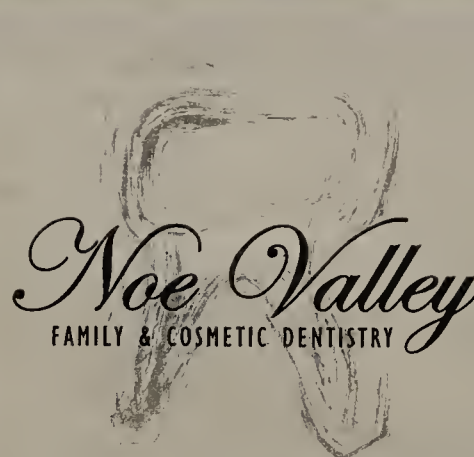


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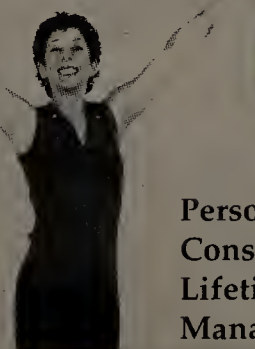


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May we all be as blessed as the Sullivan clan and their friends! In the photo at right (from left) we have Jim and Jane Dubuque celebrating 25 years of marriage. Next to them are Terry and Jane Anne Sullivan who have been married for a mere 50 years

The two native San Francisco couples were joined by more than 30 Sullivan family members as they celebrated in Killarney, Ireland.

Tell us of your own adventures by mailing photos and caption info to: Noe Valley Voice, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or by e-mailing [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com).



*Pause...*

*Give Thanks...*

*Find Peace...*

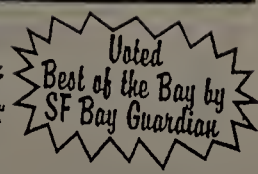
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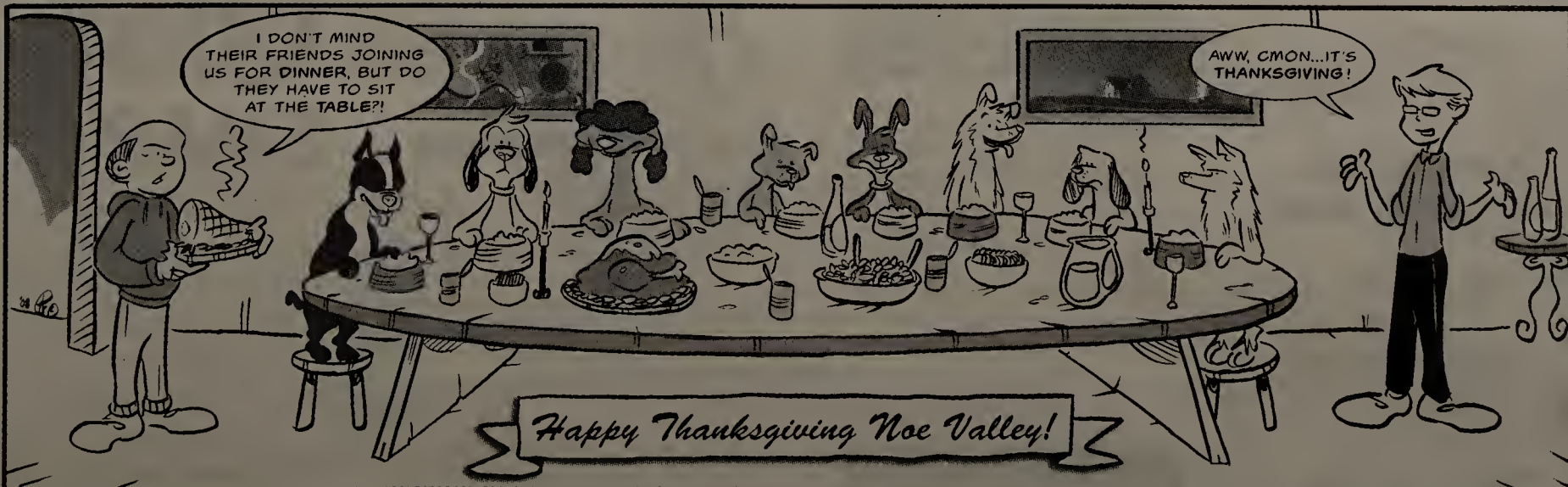
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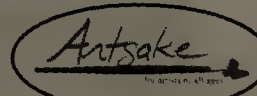
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**Hanging Out.** Hanging out on their block of Alvarado Street on a sunny Saturday are (from left) Rowan Cassius, Sophie Woods, James Stowell, Graydon and Ben Rinehart, Marley Murray and Isaac Salzman in his red cape.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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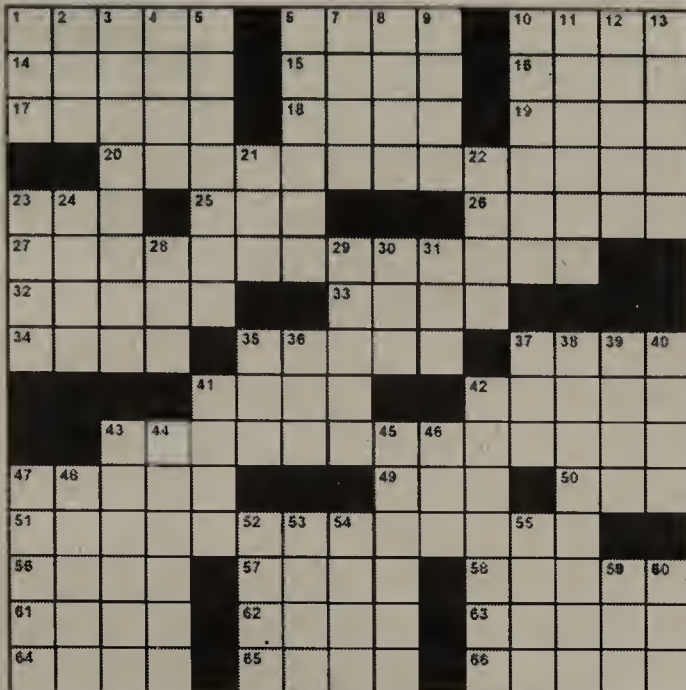


## CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

## Suppose Tuggey's Sold Huggies

## ACROSS

1. Behind a wrecker, say
6. Smashes (into)
10. Moist
14. Ninety degrees from oeste
15. Out of control
16. Stick in the fridge?
17. Robot kin, like Artoo Detoo
18. Aaron Spelling's daughter
19. New York baseballers
20. Suppose a Church Street realty sold radials...
23. Kind of tide
25. O.J. trial judge Lance
26. Sleep noisily
27. Suppose a 24th Street cafe sold motorcycles...
32. Jake's "Brokeback Mountain" friend
33. Outdoes
34. Observed
35. Hightails
37. Dracula creator Stoker
41. Shakespearean King
42. You might pose one
43. Suppose a 24th Street realty sold gems...
47. Honolulu howdy
49. Actor Vigoda
50. Took a chair
51. Suppose a 24th Street French restaurant offered psychiatry...
56. Radarange, for one
57. Protest violently
58. Tease
61. Wine prefix



62. Aroma
63. "\_\_\_ this like a hole in the head!"
64. Parker who played Daniel Boone
65. Formally surrender
66. Digs with twigs?
13. Group in hot pursuit
21. Pretzel-and-chip brand
22. Disapproving tongue clicks
23. Squeezes (out), as a living
24. Tibia, for one
28. Relative
29. Wombs
30. San Jose Congresswoman Lofgren
31. FedEx rival
35. French fire
36. Fetching dog, briefly
37. "My Three Sons" role
38. Distributes again, as a magazine
39. Side squared, for a square
40. Popular computer game
41. Pawnshop offering
42. Director Tarantino
43. Noe Valley Bakery quantities, often
44. African chargers
45. Author of "No Exit"
46. Batter's stat.
47. Standoffish
48. Flood embankment
52. 'Gator kin
53. Border
54. Where the boyz are
55. "Citizen \_\_\_"
59. After-tax amount
60. Six-pointers, for short

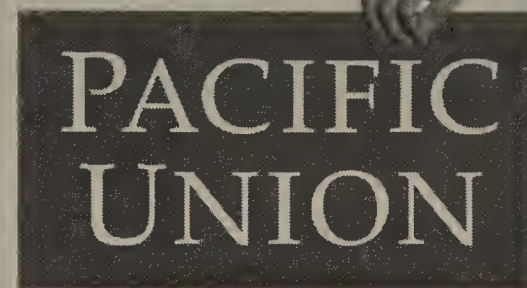
Solution on Page 45

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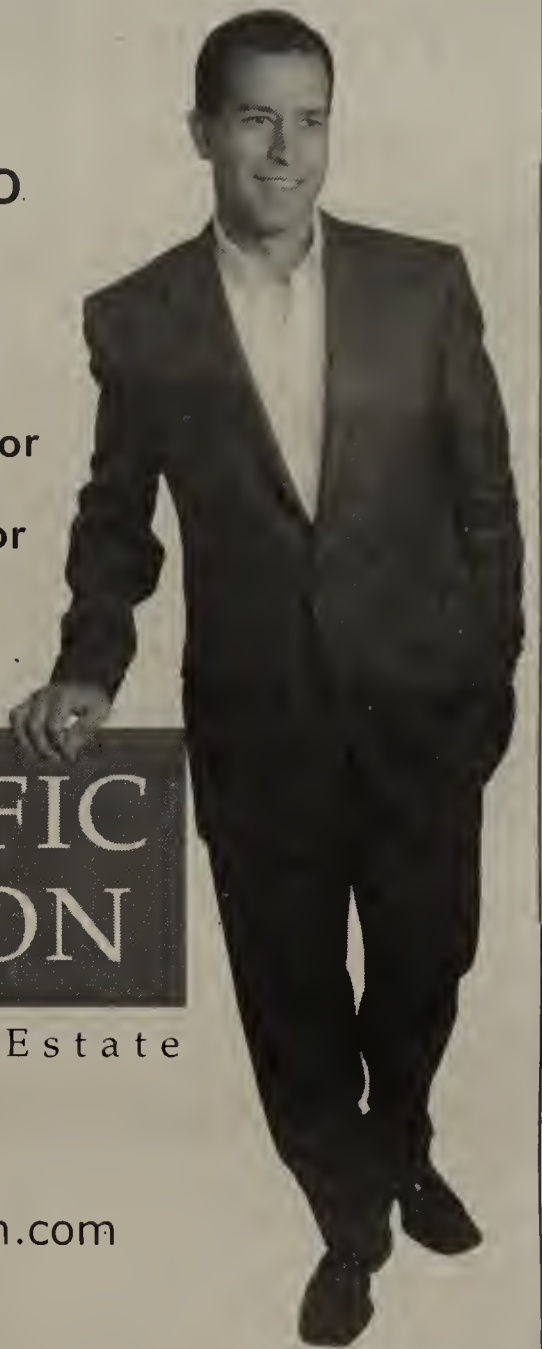


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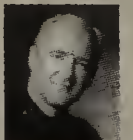
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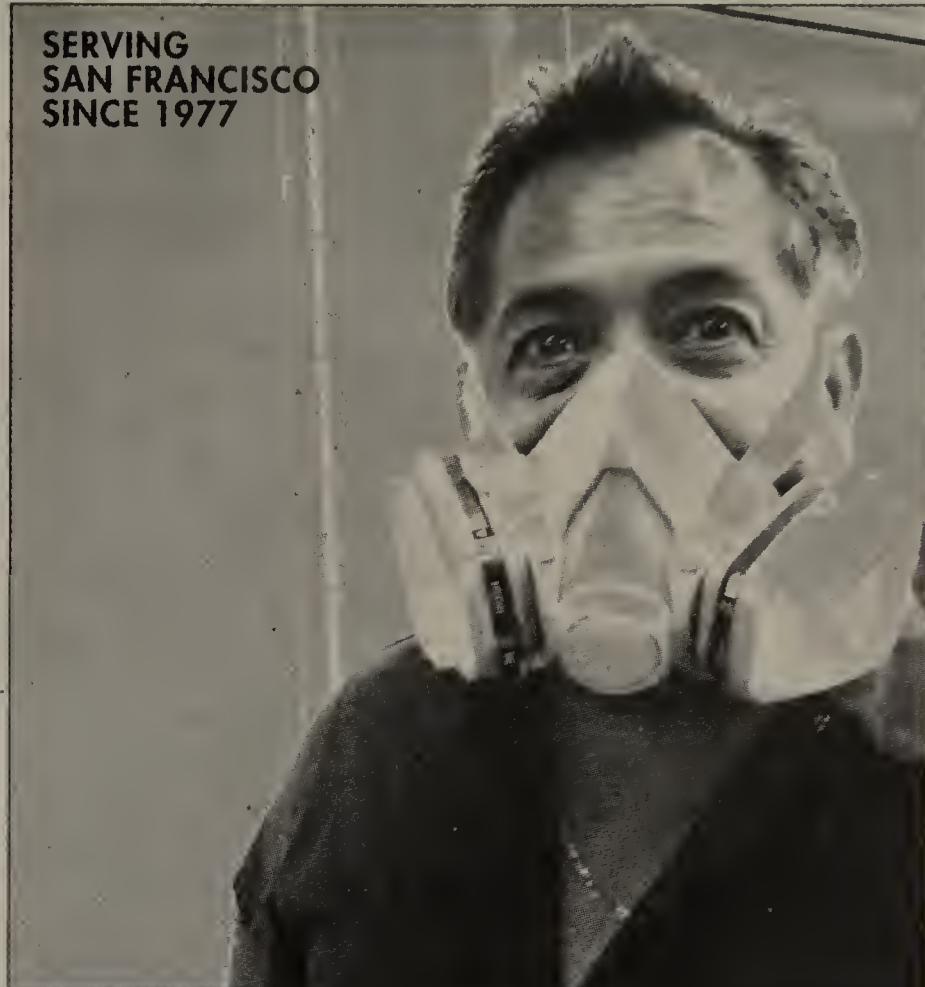
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# SCHOOL REPORT

Here's the latest from parents at Noe Valley's public schools: James Lick Middle School on Noe Street, Alvarado Elementary School on Douglass, and Fairmount Elementary at Chenery and 30th.

## JAMES LICK

### Spotlight on a James Lick Alum: Bernie Melvin of Bernie's Cafe

Tucked between Ritz Camera and Bell Market on 24th Street is a friendly little coffeehouse called Bernie's Cafe, run by a neighbor who grew up in Noe Valley. Bernadette "Bernie" Melvin, the owner, also is a James Lick alum. She graduated from Lick middle school in 1988.

"Those were some of the greatest years of my life," says Melvin, who grew up at 22nd and Douglass streets. "I met four new kids on my first day of school, and they are all still my best friends."

Melvin, who opened her café a little over a year ago, has already donated coffee for James Lick events more than a dozen times, and students and staff stop in regularly to chat. Principal Bitu Nazarian can be spotted in line almost every morning, getting her half-caff medium coffee.

Says Melvin, "I love talking with James Lick people when they come in."

Melvin says that teachers seem different today than when she was a student at Lick. "When I was there, teachers were more like information providers," and they maintained their distance from students.

Today, when staff and students bump into each other at the coffeehouse, Melvin says, "the teachers really know a lot about the kids, and care about the kids' lives."

#### Join Us at Pomodoro

Another generous Lick neighbor is Pomodoro at 24th and Noe streets. The restaurant is hosting a fundraising night for the school on Monday, Nov. 3, from 5 to 9 p.m. If diners present a special flier (available that night), 10 percent of the profits from the evening's meals will go to the school.

#### Open House Is Friday, Nov. 14

The school application season has begun, and Lick is hosting its annual Open House for families of fifth-graders who are looking for a middle school. Light refreshments will be served as Principal Nazarian, sixth-grade teachers, and the PTSA present all the reasons why families should choose James Lick, including its expanded arts program, the school



James Lick students Evan and Aaron Anderson share a laugh with Bernie Melvin of Bernie's Cafe on 24th Street. Melvin regularly donates coffee to the school. Photo by Heidi Anderson

musical, the small-school atmosphere, beautiful Art Deco building, and good test scores. The evening begins at 6 p.m.

In addition to the Open House, doors are open for tours of the school every Tuesday morning, from 9 to 10 a.m. Call the school at 695-5675 for information.

#### What's a GATE?

Many students in the San Francisco School District are identified as Gifted and Talented (GATE) while they are in elementary school, and the district provides several ways to challenge these students throughout their education. On Thursday, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m., the PTSA will be presenting an evening of information on how GATE students are identified, what "differentiated curriculum" means, and how to get the most out of GATE programs. All Noe Valley community members are welcome.

#### High School 101

The James Lick PTSA and the after-school program After the Bell recently presented High School 101 Night to teach parents and students what they need to know about SFUSD high schools.

The event was packed with parents and kids eager to hear about high school from the experts: S.F. high school students. After the students gave a talk and answered questions, the school district's Educational Placement Center filled families in on the application process.

"I feel like I know more now about what I need to do," said one parent afterward, "and especially the deadlines to get everything in on time."

For information on enrolling your child in a public high school, call 241-6512.

#### Let Us Entertain You

The Visual and Performing Arts Department at James Lick Middle School will be performing its annual Fall Concert on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Middle school students will perform dances and choral music numbers. Come see all the talented kids strut their stuff. Donations gladly accepted at the door.

#### Yard Open on Weekends

Want to shoot some hoops with the kids? James Lick's schoolyard is now open to the public on weekends. Come to the gate on the Clipper Street side, leading to the lower yard.

The Lick playground is one of 11 schoolyards whose gates will be unchained as part of "Schools as Community Hubs," a project piloted by Mayor Gavin Newsom last spring. A joint effort of SFUSD, the mayor's office, and the city's Rec and Park Department, the project aims to foster exercise and community centers. The yards will be open from approximately 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both Sat-

urdays and Sundays. Sorry, no access to school bathrooms.

#### Parking Lot Reaps Cash

As many of you know, the fourth annual Noe Valley Harvest Festival went off without a hitch on Saturday, Oct. 25. The day was sunny and warm, and the neighborhood streamed to the fair by foot, horse, bike, and car. To raise money for PTSA projects, James Lick offered its parking lot to the vehicular crowd. When 5 o'clock rolled around, the PTSA had raised over \$700 for the school. Way to go, Noe Valley! And a special thanks to parent volunteer Wendy Jones for supervising the lot.

#### Donate Early and Donate Often!

The James Lick Middle School Silent Auction will be held again at the Noe Valley Ministry on Saturday, March 7. Ambitious fundraising goals have been set, and organizers have begun work. Got something to donate? We would love to hear from you. Call Nadine Kessler at 734-7808.

—Heidi Anderson

## ALVARADO

### Teachers Humming and Strumming

Professional development in the arts can mean dry classes on "improving field trips," but this year Alvarado teachers are learning how to play the guitar, to enhance teaching and—hopefully—enjoy themselves.

The first of two eight-week beginning guitar classes has already started, and about 20 teachers have signed up for the after-school course, which is being taught by a music instructor supplied by the non-profit Guitars in the Classroom.

Kindergarten teacher Laurie Baker-Flynn is enthusiastic about the program, and thinks it will stimulate her teaching. "This [course] is addressing the whole person as a teacher. Here's how we feed our creative soul and use it in the classroom, too."

She says the kids in her classroom already enjoy hearing music on CDs. But the guitar will bring something special. "It's right there—this instrument they can see and touch."

With a stable of 46 music instructors—ranging from rockers to worship leaders—Guitars in the Classroom currently runs courses in schools across 25 states.

Jessica Barton, who directs the California-based non-profit, says GITC's guitar-learning technique is simple. "It doesn't take talent," she says. And no practice is required. "Our motto is 'Just show up.'"

GITC provides its teacher-students with instruments and songbooks, but teachers

also learn to write their own music and incorporate the songs into lessons. A bilingual Spanish-English songbook will be added this year to boost English skills.

Studies show that weaving music into the classroom increases kids' language fluency and academic performance, Barton says. "Music is tied to everything."

What's more, the teachers get a boost. Barton has seen worn and dispirited veteran teachers—and frustrated and exhausted new teachers—leave the GITC class reinvigorated.

"When a teacher feels creative, renewed, and powerful and knows every day they pull out their guitar, magic is going to happen," Barton says, "they're going to remember why they became teachers in the first place."

—Heather World

## FAIRMOUNT

### Party Up, Party Down, Read On

Fairmount's fall fundraising events to support PTA-sponsored extracurricular art, drama, music, and dance got off to a smashing start with a Baile de Familia under the stars in the schoolyard Sept. 26.

With new principal Ana Lunardi dancing up a storm alongside the parents and kids, the event raised \$2,500. The only missing note was that the principal forgot to ask her mother to dance. "I can't believe I didn't bring Mom onto the dance floor!"

October also brought forward a favorite FUNraiser, the fall car wash, which had kids and parents spraying hoses and soaking each other as well as the cars. Another \$1,500 was raised.

Thanks to all the Noe Valleyans who followed the kids' signs and drove into our yard to get their cars washed and dried. While they waited for their rides to get a makeover, they enjoyed some grilled hot dogs from parent Ken Jones and scrumptious goodies baked by other Fairmount moms and dads.

The end of October also featured the book fair, which ran concurrently with parent conference week. High-quality Spanish-language books, as well as English-language favorites and school supplies, were gobbled up by students and their parents, with Fairmount receiving the lion's share of the proceeds.

#### Take a Parent-Led Tour

Parents thinking of checking out Fairmount and our dual-immersion Spanish immersion programs should stop by Tuesday mornings for parent-led tours and conversations with our principal. Call 695-5669, or just come by 69 Chenery Street (corner of Randall) at 9 a.m.

—Tom Ruiz

## SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School  
Robert Broecker, Principal  
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado  
415-695-5695  
www.alvaradoschool.net

Fairmount Elementary School  
Ana Lunardi, Principal  
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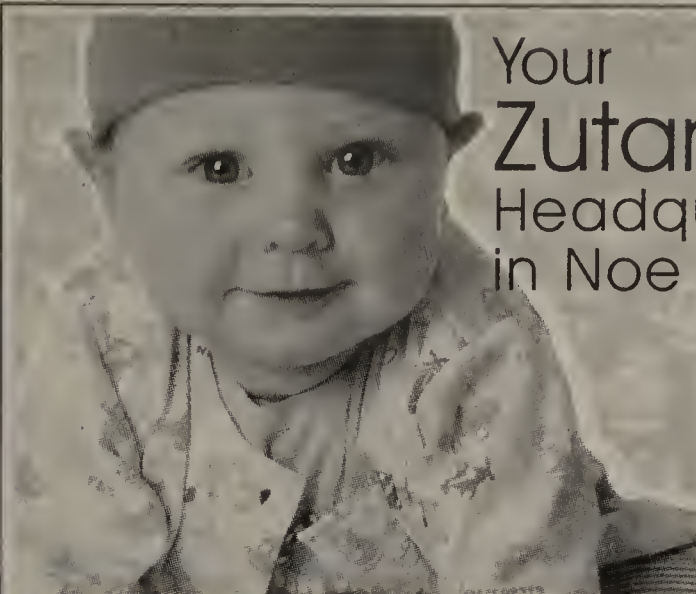
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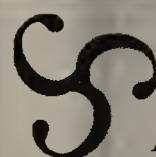
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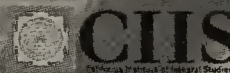
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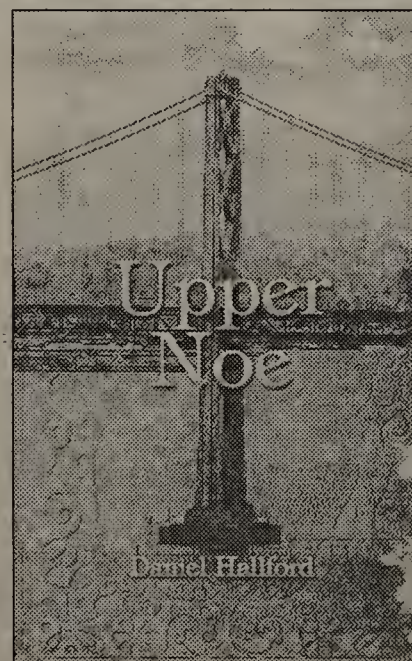


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# MORE BOOKS TO READ

## Try a History with Mystery

You can learn about pirates or what it's like to be the grandson of an ayatollah, by perusing two selections on this month's list, brought to you by *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske and children's librarian Carol Small, of the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library. To see if books are available, search for titles at [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org), call Small or branch manager Alice McCloud at 355-5707, or drop by the library at 451 Jersey Street at Castro. While you're there, check out the CD and DVD collections. Hours are Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesday, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Adult Fiction

- In Erin McGraw's *The Seaustress of Hollywood Boulevard*—a novel inspired by the author's own grandmother—a young woman leaves her husband and two daughters in rural 1901 Kansas and winds up out west as a dressmaker to the stars.
- Jazz musician and con man Louis Greenberg tries to break into the bebop scene in 1948 Los Angeles, in *Early Bright*, Ami Silber's debut novel.
- In 1952, a young, ambitious Yale psychology professor develops a mood-enhancing drug that has disastrous consequences, in *Pharmakon* by Dirk Wittenborn.

### Adult Nonfiction

- In *An Act of State: The Execution of Martin Luther King*, William F. Pepper, an attorney and friend of the civil rights leader, describes his 30-year investigation into what he believes was a large-scale conspiracy and cover-up.
- Jon Katz tells tales about his two newest dogs, an emotionally damaged border collie and a black lab with training issues, in *Izzy and Lenore: Two Dogs, an Unexpected Journey, and Me*.
- Hooman Majd, the Western-educated grandson of an ayatollah, explores Persian social mores in *The Ayatollah Begs to Differ: The Paradox of Modern Iran*.
- In *The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English*, Henry Hitchings sifts through 350 languages to examine the roots of our vocabulary.

### Children's Fiction

- In David Bedford's *Moms*, children can lift flaps to find out about various animal mothers, including Camel's mom, who has knobby knees, and Whale's mom, who leaps for the sky; illustrations by Leonie Worthington. *Ages 1 to 3.*
- Christopher Rabbit tries to count everything, even his mother's goodnight kisses and the stars in the sky, in *Christopher Counting*, written and illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev. *Ages 3 to 6.*
- Except for Tain the Potter, all the villagers of Maldinga tell their unpleasant secrets to Kali, *The Secret Keeper*, in Kate Coombs' modern fairy tale. *Ages 6 to 9.*
- Folding origami cranes at her grandmother's flower shop helps Angela cope with her parents' impending divorce, in Naomi Hirahara's *1,001 Cranes*. *Ages 10 and up.*

### Children's Nonfiction

- Irene Luxbacher includes clear step-by-step directions for the creation of relief prints, folds, and etched art, using everyday materials and tools, in *I Can Make Prints*. *Ages 4 to 8.*
- John Matthews' survey of knaves on the high seas, *Pirates: Most Wanted*, features Blackbeard, Black Bart, Black Sam, and a few notorious women. *Ages 7 to 12.*

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Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616 (Closed for renovation. Events held at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St.)							
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 337-4740							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
			10-6	12-8	1-7	1-6	1-6
Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	1-9	10-9	10-9	10-6	1-6	10-6	

LIBRARY EVENTS	
<b>Tell Me a Story</b>	
■ Children 3 to 5 are invited to attend <i>preschool story time</i> , a read-aloud program from 11 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, Nov. 4 and 25.	
<b>Monster Films</b>	
■ <i>Films</i> for kids 3 to 5, including "Chicka, Chicka 1, 2, 3" and "Leonardo the Terrible Monster," will be shown on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 10:15 and 11 a.m.	
<i>All events are held at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library at 451 Jersey Street. For information, call 355-5707.</i>	

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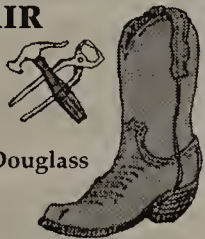
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The next *Voice* will be the December/January issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of December.

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The next Voice will be the December/January issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of December.

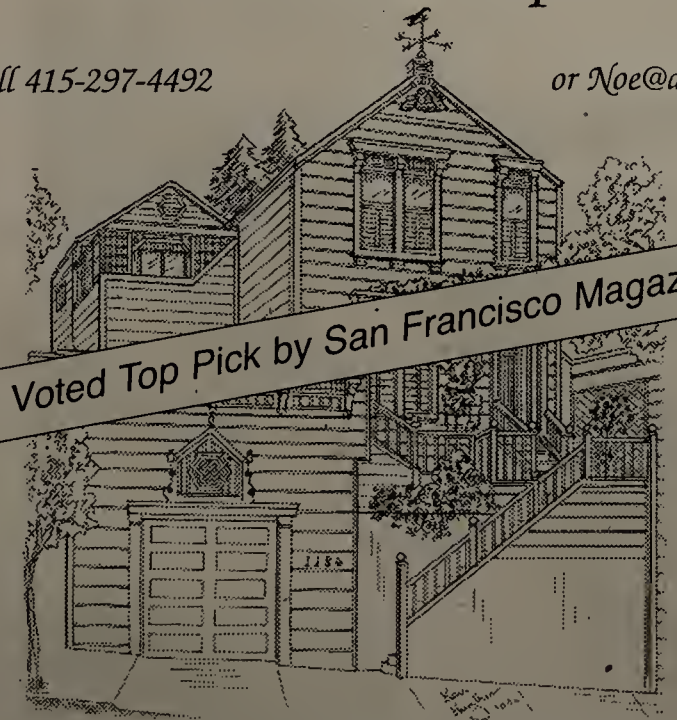
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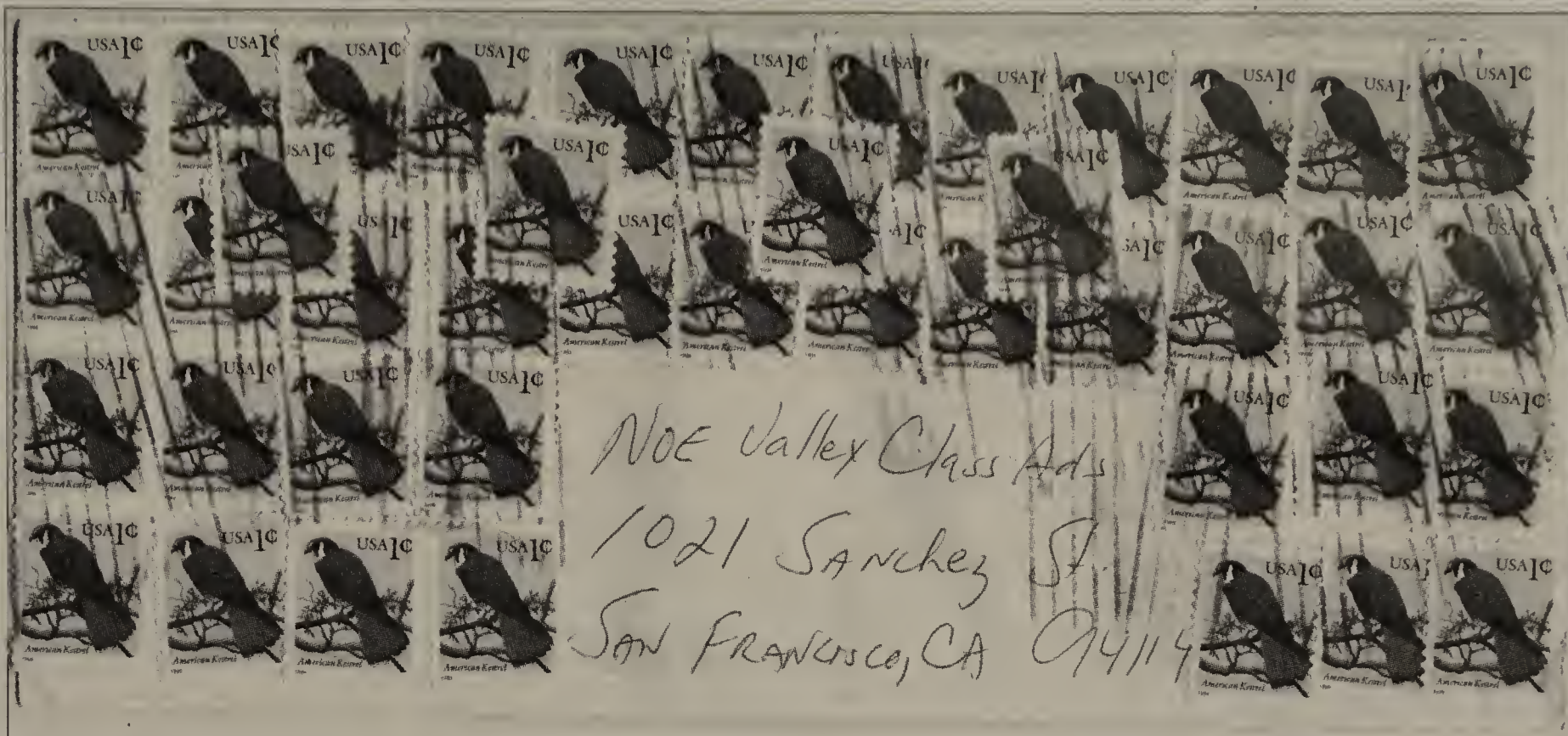
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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Old News

By Mazook

**H**ALLOWEEN WAS YESTERDAY, and All Saints Day is today. Tomorrow is the Day of the Dead, and Tuesday is Nov. 4, Election Day.

So the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) has issued a RED ALERT, knowing the residents of Noe Valley will soon be expressing their passion or pain on Nov. 5, the day after Election Day.

The last NVBI Red Alert was flashed Nov. 8, 2000, the day after the Bush-Gore debacle. But back then, there were no demonstrations, because no one had any idea who'd really won after the votes were cast. The election was determined weeks later, by a microscopic 537 Florida votes. Gore won the popular vote, but the presidency was awarded to Bush by the electoral college and affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

By the way, the neighborhood demographics at that time, which we published in a November 2000 Rumors column, have been cited in the "Noe Valley" entry on Wikipedia. We reported that according to a 1999 poll of registered voters by David Binder Research, Noe Valley is (was):

European American: 80%  
Age 30-49: 53%  
Female: 51%  
Heterosexual: 71%  
Rent housing (vs. own): 52%  
College graduate: 78%

Democrat: 79%  
Republicans: 6%  
Religious affiliation: 63%  
Not religious: 38%

Those numbers have probably changed a lot since then, but they provide the basis for the NVBI opinion that if the McCain-Palin ticket manages to pull off a victory Nov. 4, angry mobs of Noe Valleons (my preferred spelling) will take to the streets, demanding San Francisco secede from the union. They will congregate at ground zero, at the intersection of 24th and Castro streets, and march together to Dolores Park, where 100,000 like-minded people will gather to draft a Declaration of Independence.

On the other hand, if Obama wins, the NVBI will issue a BLUE ALERT, whereby the citizens of Noe Valley will go directly to Dolores Park and stage a rally demanding Alaska secede from the union. Or perhaps Utah.

The NVBI, after exhaustive research, is forecasting a more than 80 percent voter turnout in Noe Valley, with even higher turnouts expected in Eureka Valley and Upper Market (No on Prop. 8, the ban on gay marriage). The NVBI predicts that the Noe vote will be Obama 86 percent, McCain 8 percent, and others 6 percent. Look for the Noe vote tally in the next issue of the *Voice*.

By the way, the most popular costume at Halloween this year, according to One Stop Party Shop, was none other than Sarah Palin.

☎ ☎ ☎

**HAY THERE:** Speaking of demographics, the NVBI estimates that over 8,000 people showed up for the fourth annual Noe Valley Harvest Festival Oct. 25 on 24th Street. It was family fun for all, with more vendors this year, and the usual pumpkin patch, hayride, and jumpy tent. According to Noe Valley Association

director Debra Niemann, the cost of putting on the fair was about \$28,000, including entertainment and city fees. Money received from the sponsors and booth rentals exceeded that by about \$4,000, and will be used for next year's festival.

Niemann says that fair will be expanded on 24th Street up to the middle of the 3900 block of 24th Street, where she hopes a newly opened Whole Foods will join in as a sponsor. "We also are going to add another jumpy tent, since that was the festival's most popular event."

☎ ☎ ☎

**THE HUMAN (POWERED) RACE:** More than 50,000 folks, by SFPD estimates, showed up Saturday afternoon Oct. 18 to watch the Red Bull Soapbox Race on Dolores Street from 21st to 19th Street. Techies, greenies, and families with wild-eyed kids braved the traffic to see Team Trash, a group of real-life garbage men, win the race at a flying 38.5 mph.

Large screens were set up at the start and finish, so everybody could get a peek at the outrageous hot rods—we especially liked the tree car driven by Team Hugger (second place).

There were 33 soapbox entries from all over Northern California and at least two teams sponsored by locals—Valley Tavern and Noe's Bar. In addition, Chris Cosentino, chef of Incanto on Church Street, was on the esteemed panel of judges.

☎ ☎ ☎

**THE REAL RUNAROUND:** The folks who own Real Food on 24th Street across from Bell finally did respond to last month's *Voice* query as to the status of the store, now empty for five years.

On Oct. 1, Sergio Diaz of Nutraceutical Corporation (which owns the building and ran Real Food before it was closed), sent an e-mail to *Voice* writer Liz

Highleyman: "I am sorry it took me this long to answer your e-mail. I appreciate you following up on this issue."

"We continue working on renovating the building.... We have created an alternative design that we believe is going to benefit the community in a positive way. The proposed project has been sent to the city for initial review. We also plan to meet neighborhood leaders to gather feedback and incorporate enhancements to the design."

However, a quick check with the San Francisco Planning Department confirmed that the last proposal Nutraceutical sent was in May 2007. That plan included demolition of the existing building and construction of a new three-story building, with the first floor a grocery store, the second floor for commercial use, and the third floor residential.

"But we haven't heard from them since," says Planning's Rick Crawford.

It doesn't appear the Nutra people have made any gestures toward our "neighborhood leaders" either.

If any of you neighborhood leaders have been contacted, please e-mail us.

☎ ☎ ☎

**IN A CONTIGUOUS ITEM,** the Planning Department approved plans to reconstruct the building at 3931-33 24th Street, housing Noe Bagel for the last 15 years. Before that, it was a Double Rainbow ice cream parlor.

The project will include creating a second-floor "personal service" use space, and adding a residential floor above that which would be set back from the street. The façade of the building would be restored to its original look, and city records show it was built some time before 1900. According to city planner Elizabeth Waty, the project went through a historical

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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

review before approval.

The fate of Noe Bagel is unclear at this time. Apparently, the bagelry's lease is up for renewal, and the parties have yet to come to terms.

In a kitty-corner item, the Planning Department also approved plans to construct a small restaurant in the ground-floor space of what used to be the office of realtor B.J. Droubi. The 350-square-foot space, on 24th up from Castro Street, is slated to become Noe Soup.

"Yes," says co-owner and soup chef Maureen Earl, "we will be serving on average eight to twelve very healthy, exotic, unusual, and very special different choices of soups every day, as well as fresh salads and breads, and all totally organic."

Earl hopes to start ladling by the end of February, and she anticipates seating inside the cafe for eight to ten people, "weather permitting—we will also have some seating outside."

She says she intends to feature "around 25 different soups," which will be rotated into the daily menu, at prices that Earl promises will be affordable.

☎ ☎ ☎

IN A CIRCUITOUS ITEM: Rumors about Kookez Café, located in that same general neighborhood, have been all over the map. But now we can say definitely that the restaurant is closing. The rumor that it had been sold, and the other rumor that the owners had just gone on vacation, were both true. Evidently, escrow closing for the new owner was delayed, so the restaurant reopened briefly but then closed again. The first buyers apparently backed out, so now there are some back-up buyers who are applying for transfer of the beer and wine license.

There were initial reports that Stefano Coppola, who owns and chefs at Lupa Italian restaurant next door to Kookez, would be enlarging to the west. "That rumor is not true," says Coppola. "We have no intention of moving or expanding Lupa." Coppola did confirm that he was representing the parties making the offer, but he did not want to comment any further on the pending sale of the restaurant.

Around the corner from Lupa, on Castro, it looks like the final touches are being made to Contigo, and everyone is anticipating a grand opening soon. Owner/chef Brett Emerson had hoped for an October opening, but that was not to be. His website blog laments some electrical and plumbing glitches, which created delays. Hopefully, the stoves will be cooking by Christmas.

Out on Church Street, the word in Upper Noe Valley is that the "World's Best Henry's Hunan" restaurant will be opening in mid- to late-November in the spot where Joey and Eddy's Pescheria was, near 29th Street. The sign has gone up, but it looks like work still needs to be done.

☎ ☎ ☎

EATING YOUR WORDS: Say hello to Omnivore Books, a new bookstore that will have its grand opening on Nov. 8. The shop sits at 3885A Cesar Chavez (near Church), in a space once occupied by the garden and antique store Art Garden.

The bookstore will specialize in cookbooks, says cooking enthusiast and owner Celia Sack, who is also co-owner of Noe Valley Pet Company.

"We will have thousands of titles, both new and collectible," says a very excited Sack, "with normal titles priced anywhere from 15 to 50 dollars. Volumes signed by the authors will range in cost from \$60 to

\$150. Some of the collectibles will cost as high as \$600, for example, a 1904 edition of *Charcuterie* by L.F. Dronne, or a first edition 1935 volume of *All about Coffee* by William Ukers, which becomes valuable because it is in its original dust jacket."

The space was a butcher shop many years ago, and a lot of the fixtures became part of the store's décor, like the scale, butcher's rack, and refrigerator doors, she says.

Does anyone out there know what the name of that butcher shop was?

The NVBI asked 92-year-old Agnes Farrell, a Noe Valley resident since 1918. She replied it was not Larney's, which was where Fattoosh restaurant is now on Church near Clipper, and it also was not "the very popular Strahles Butcher Shop, which was on the corner of 26th and Sanchez."

"Give me a little time," says Farrell, "and I'll try to come up with the name."

Thank you.

☎ ☎ ☎

CONGRATULATIONS: Kudos go out to Noe Valley author Bill Yenne, whose new biography *Sitting Bull* has been named one of Amazon's "Top Ten Best Books of the Year."

Cheers also to 26th Street resident Anmarie Mabbutt, who has just published a new children's book, called *Tim Takes a Tumble*, about a fuzzy tennis ball that goes on a San Francisco adventure after being hit over the tennis court fence.

Mabbutt has lived in Noe Valley for the past 15 years and has been teaching tennis at the courts in Golden Gate Park for 13. A mother of two, she dedicates the book "to the many students I have taught over the years who inspired me to want to publish the book."

The book's illustrations are by Haight resident Saul Levy.



Twenty-sixth Street resident Anmarie Mabbutt has just published a children's book, with illustrations by Saul Levy. She says it's about a "tennis ball that gets loose in San Francisco, but thanks to the kindness of a little boy, it finds its way back at the end of the day." Sounds fun.

LAST CALL: Say goodbye to Veterans Liquor Store, which has been on Church near 29th since 1948.

"I lost my lease," says Veterans owner Mike Agil, "and the building owners would not renew. I have been here for 18 years and the store has been here for 60 years, so I am sad to leave."

Agil's was the first store to sell Muni Fast Passes in the neighborhood back in 1991, and also brought an ATM to the Upper Noe commercial corridor back in 1996.

"I will be just fine," says Agil. "I am moving up to Healdsburg and have taken over Adel's Restaurant on Dry Creek Road, which serves family-style food." Agil used to be in the food service business with Zim's and Pam Pam East.

Also say goodbye to the two eucalyptus trees that have stood near the front of the Downtown Noe Valley parking lot across from Noe Valley Auto Works for 40 or so years.

According to Carla Short at the Bureau of Urban Forestry, the city has determined



The city's Bureau of Urban Forestry has given notice that it wants to cut down two of these eucalyptus trees in the public parking lot on 24th near Castro. But it appears the trees have some defenders. A hearing has been set for Nov. 19.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

that the trees are no longer healthy, "and show structural problems and issues that are a potential hazard" to the area. There will be a hearing on Nov. 19 at City Hall, since "we have received some protests," says Short.

☎ ☎ ☎

PRICKLY PARKING: The NVBI is warning the neighborhood that S.F. Parking and Traffic has increased enforcement of laws regarding vehicles parked in driveways.

The \$100 tickets have made a group of 22nd Street residents "furious," and now they want to petition for relief for what they perceive to be selective enforcement of their block between Castro and Noe. About 20 residents showed up for an early October meeting on the parking/ticketing problems on their street.

Says spokesperson Jim Acker: "Within the past few months alone, 22nd Street residents have paid more than \$2,500 in fines, for parking in their own driveways. Longtime residents—20 to 30 years—could not remember this law ever being enforced," says Acker.

Realizing there's little chance they can change the no-parking-on-sidewalks law, which exists to protect people in wheelchairs, etc., the group is busy collecting

signatures from more than half the residents on the block to make it an "S" restricted-parking zone. Acker says the petition should be filed with the city soon, and a two-hour zone created by February.

☎ ☎ ☎

BEFORE I GO, I want to set the record straight about one of last month's pop quiz questions. The name of the first bank to occupy the space now occupied by WaMu at 24th and Noe was not Coast, but its predecessor, Olympic Savings.

And finally, I'd like to encourage you to STOP whatever you are doing at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, and pause for one minute in remembrance of all the soldiers who have died fighting wars that nobody wins.

Nov. 11 is when we will all observe Armistice Day (now called Veterans Day), when 90 years ago at the 11th hour of that 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the war that was to end all wars ended. ■



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**Castro Area Planning + Action**

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230  
E-mail: [capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)  
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,  
Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100  
Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Church Street Professionals**

Contacts: Gary Norman, 282-5685,  
or Susan Levinson, 647-3007  
E-mail: [gary.norman@edwardjones.com](mailto:gary.norman@edwardjones.com)  
Meetings: Call or e-mail for information.

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30  
p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

E-mail: [dhic123@gmail.com](mailto:dhic123@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.doloresheights.org](http://www.doloresheights.org)  
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-  
bership semi-annually.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360;  
Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or  
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club**

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

**Eureka Valley Promotion Association**

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month  
(except December), Eureka Valley Recrea-  
tion Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362  
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San  
Francisco, CA 94110  
Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is  
held the day before Mother's Day.

# MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association**

Contact: Gregg Brooks  
E-mail: [sflyric@yahoo.com](mailto:sflyric@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: E-mail for details.

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**

Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774  
E-mail: [emerr@earthlink.net](mailto:emerr@earthlink.net)  
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San  
Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: E-mail for information.

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**

Contact: Laura Norman  
E-mail: [lauranor@yahoo.com](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,  
P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**

Contact: Richard May  
E-mail: [rambooks@pachell.net](mailto:rambooks@pachell.net)  
Website: [www.friendsofnoevalley.com](http://www.friendsofnoevalley.com)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San  
Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the  
month (call or e-mail to confirm), at  
St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

**Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center**

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845  
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park**

Contact: Alexandra Torre  
E-mail: [noe\\_park@atorre.com](mailto:noe_park@atorre.com)  
Website: [www.noevalleyreccenter.com](http://www.noevalleyreccenter.com)  
Meetings: E-mail or check website.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114,  
San Francisco, CA 94119  
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

**Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group**

Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310  
E-mail: [kendall@microcounsel.com](mailto:kendall@microcounsel.com)  
Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.  
Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a  
screenwriting course.

**Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"**

Contact: [noestrolls@aol.com](mailto:noestrolls@aol.com)  
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departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St.  
For details, visit [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

**Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District**

Contact: Debra Niemann, [nemo@rcn.com](mailto:nemo@rcn.com)  
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage  
on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838  
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month;  
St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30  
p.m. Parking available in lot off Elizabeth.

**Noe Valley Farmers' Market**

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between  
Sanchez and Vicksburg Street  
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332  
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San  
Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,  
Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021  
Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

**Noe Valley Library Campaign**

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,  
[kkdrew@yahoo.com](mailto:kkdrew@yahoo.com); Marian Chatfield-  
Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103  
Mailing Address: Friends of the  
San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)**

Contacts: Donna Davis, 647-2116, or Gwen  
Sanderson, 550-7577  
E-mail: [info@noevalleymerchants.com](mailto:info@noevalleymerchants.com);  
register at [www.noevalleymerchants.com](http://www.noevalleymerchants.com).  
Meetings: Last Tuesday of the month, Bank  
of America, 4098 24th St., 9 a.m.

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

An e-mail resource network for parents  
Contact: Mina Kenvin  
E-mail: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)

**Noe Valley Preparedness Committee**

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536  
E-mail: [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com)  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Outer Noe Valley Merchants**

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets**

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188  
E-mail: [contact@sanjoseguerrero.com](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Website: [www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Meetings: See website.

**See Jane Run Running Programs**

Contacts: Shauna Nyborg, 415-401-8338;  
Deb DeFanti, 415-839-9393  
E-mail: [events@seejanerun.com](mailto:events@seejanerun.com)  
Address: 3910 24th Street (at Sanchez)  
Website: <http://www.seejanerun.com/t-Training.aspx>

**Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)**

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and  
Fair Oaks to Mission  
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary  
E-mail: [lori@tail-wagging.com](mailto:lori@tail-wagging.com)  
Website: [www.tail-wagging.com](http://www.tail-wagging.com)  
Meetings: E-mail for information.

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473  
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month,  
Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and  
Sanchez. 7:30 p.m.



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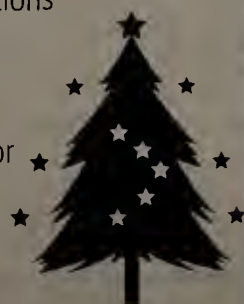
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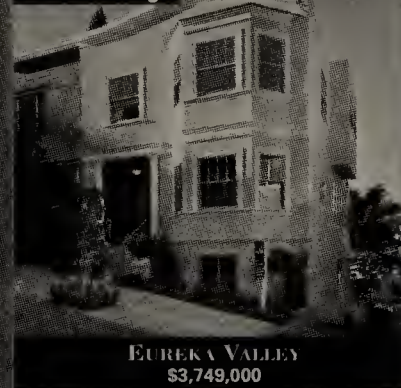
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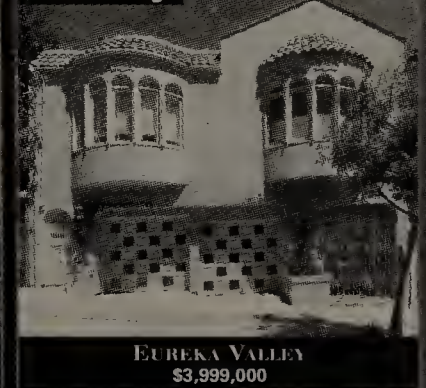
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*Photo by Ann Powell*

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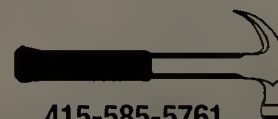
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**Stroller Stop.** The tots have disembarked and the parents have set the brakes. Now where did everyone go? Aside from good reading material, they are in reach of bagels and coffee.

*Photo by Pamela Gerard*





**Palm Majesty.** Dolores Street sports a long line of mighty palms.

*Photo by Jack Tipple*





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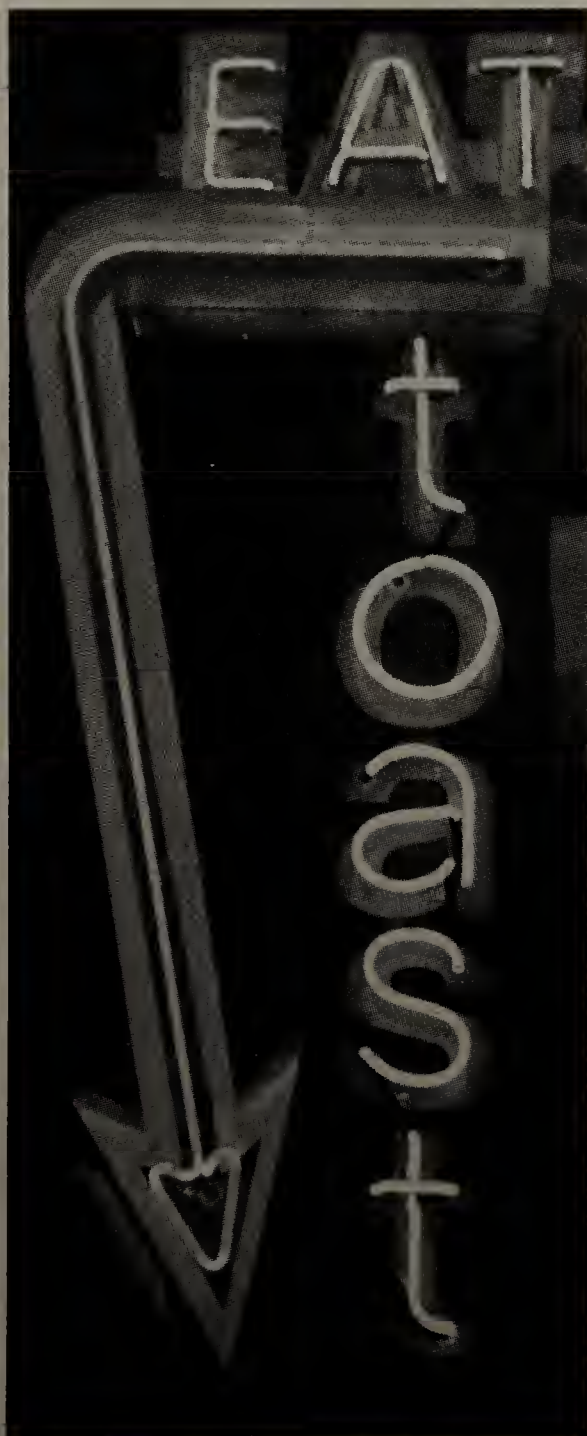
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SAN FRANCISCO MARIN PENINSULA



# THE LAST PAGE

## Memory

◆ BY ED MILLER ◆

It was a winter night on a small island not far off the coast of northern Maine. Snowflakes fell silently through the darkness. In a bay half a mile off, icy waves lapped at the shore.

There was a house with a porch in a clearing surrounded by tall pine trees. Inside the house, in the living room, a kerosene heater was on, glowing. The furniture in the room was dark and overstuffed, relics of a more tranquil era. An oriental rug with a faded floral design covered the floor, and a gilded mirror hung over the mantle. Several portraits in ornate frames adorned the walls. The light was muted, absorbed by the soft surfaces of the room.

An elderly man sat in an easy chair reading a book on commercial fishing. A woman with short silver hair holding a bunch of artificial white flowers crossed the room in front of him. She seemed to glide, erect and graceful like a fashion model.

The man continued to read as the woman stopped before the mirror. He glanced up and their eyes met in the slightly distorted glass. He noted, as if for the first time, the web of lines near her eyes and mouth, like cracks in an antique oil painting. They had been married a very long time.

He smiled and recalled their wedding day: a civil ceremony—neither of them had wanted a big wedding. A spring rain was falling. The sun came out just as they left City Hall. She was so elegant, so cultured, and he was so ordinary—he had a difficult time believing it when she finally agreed to marry him. There had been other suitors. It had taken him almost two years to win her over.

“I love your wit and gentle ways,” she had told him.

Now he watched as she arranged the flowers in a blue vase that sat on the mantle. The wind sighed down the chimney. A moment later, she spoke to his image in the mirror.

“Darling, you know, it’s strange, but just now, for a moment, you looked exactly as you did when we first met.”

He got up and looked in the mirror.

“You mean back before I acquired all this character?” he laughed. An image of the two of them sliding into the back seat of the ’49 Ford leaped to his mind.

“Hey, I’ve been meaning to ask,” he interrupted himself, “did you get that message from the doctor?”

She frowned. “It used to be my parents telling me what I should and shouldn’t do. Now it’s other people, my doctor, my children, telling me how to behave....”

He put his arms around her and kissed her. A minute later, she pulled away, saying, “I’ve got to get those shirts out of the dryer.”

“I’ll be here if you need me,” he said, not mentioning that she’d folded the clothes an hour ago.

He sat back down and tried to return to his book. But his thoughts kept blurring the lines.

Often these days, she’d forget things. It had started about a year ago. She’d forget the names of well-known acquaintances. (That man, who is he?) Then

she began having trouble making change at the grocery store. Baffled, she would stare at the coins in her hand as though they were from an ancient civilization.

A month ago, they’d had a friend over for dinner. She had asked why the friend’s husband wasn’t with her. She had forgotten about his recent death. Reminded of this, she’d reacted as though it was the first time she’d heard the news.

His wife’s doctor had said it could get worse, this loss of memory. And it had.

Occasionally, she’d even forgotten *his* name. Once, she had become alarmed and said to him as they prepared for bed, “You’re not my husband. My husband has black hair.”

His eyes had filled with tears, and he had been shocked into silence. He wondered how long it might be before she forgot him entirely. Without memory can there be love?

Their life together had seemed so blessed, a good and loving union. Even the loss of a child had in the end only drawn them closer together.

He recalled a newspaper photo of former president Ronald Reagan seated on a park bench wearing a baseball cap, a vacant expression on his face. The story said he was battling Alzheimer’s. He read somewhere else that the painter Willem de Kooning had the same disease. In the long run, he didn’t care about anyone but his wife.

It can’t be true, he thought. She’s the picture of health. She spends hours working in the garden, she loves long walks, even in the rain or snow.

He had begun to worry about her going off alone as she often did along the nearby beach. There were steep cliffs and crumbling paths. The doctor had said Alzheimer’s patients sometimes can’t sit still. They tend to wander, often in circles.

He recalled her aged mother who lived alone until her death more than twenty years ago. She was found dead in her garden seated in a chair next to a concrete statue of Saint Francis. She was clutching a stuffed dog that each of her children had loved in turn when they were small. The man who found her said she looked like she had sat down to watch the snow and fallen peacefully into eternal sleep.

He got up from his chair and climbed the stairs to their bedroom. It was cooler upstairs, the air a bit musty. He liked the smell. It reminded him of his grandmother’s house. Strange, but he remembered the floor in that house quite clearly, the thick rugs, the black iron heating grates.

He stopped and looked under some folded shirts in the lower drawer of the oaken bureau and removed a photo album, then sat on the bed, on the faded quilt his grandmother had given him and his wife as a wedding present. He opened the album.

He was seated on a pony. He was very young, perhaps five or six. There was someone hunched down behind the pony, a faceless someone, trying to stay out of the camera’s sight while keeping a grip on the reins.

His mother was clear-minded until her death at

ninety-two. The last day of her life, she had given him good advice, over an afternoon glass of wine, about a financial problem he’d had. That night, she went to bed and never woke up. The perfect way to go, he thought.

He turned a few pages and stopped at another photo, a portrait from high school. He had an Elvis haircut and a look of subtle defiance.

Then there he was standing in the bright sunlight wearing a khaki uniform with a dufflebag slung over his shoulder. A young man who might die, uncertainly, for his country.

Next, a shot of his wife alone on a beach, her auburn hair windblown. She held a fishing pole in one hand, a tackle box in the other.

Turning the page, he stared at a picture of himself and his wife standing in front of an oak tree. He held their first-born, Tim, who drowned when he was only eight years old. She smiled at the camera, blissfully unaware of what the future held.

He put the album down and wiped his eyes.

At that moment, his wife came into the room, saw him with his chin in his hand, and leaned over to kiss the top of his head. She paused for a few seconds before slipping her hand under his woolen bathrobe and resting it on his thigh. She sighed and he drew her down onto the bed.

That night he dreamt about time. The past. The future. The Ocean of Time. He floated on its surface. He dove into it. He became part of it like a microscopic underwater organism among millions of other organisms. There was no end to it.

He awoke the next morning feeling strangely calm. Sunshine filtered into the room through the thin blue curtains. He stretched and threw back the quilt and crossed to the window. The snow had stopped. Points of light reflected everywhere in the expanse of white. The bay sparkled in the distance beyond the silent trees.

He heard his wife stir in the bed behind him.

“Good morning, Henry,” she said.

He smiled broadly and turned to face her. ◆

### ABOUT ED MILLER

Ed Miller’s work has appeared in several venues, including *Metro* magazine and a collection of fiction published in Tel Aviv titled *The Blue Men: Contemporary North American Short Stories*. “[The book] was printed in Hebrew, which I don’t speak or read,” Miller says, but his piece was in good company (Ann Beattie, Tobias Wolff). Another of his stories, about a San Francisco classical musician injured in a car accident, was broadcast on KALW-FM Radio. He has also written an as yet unpublished novel that he calls a “combined adventure and love story.” An Excelsior District resident, Miller notes, “I once lived on Clipper Street with a wonderful view of Twin Peaks.” He often goes on walks on 24th Street with his two daughters, who still live in Noe Valley.